THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4, 2021

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P-EBT benefits distribution to start Tuesday on Saipan



GETTING THE SCHOOL READY

A U.S. Air Force airman deployed in support of Pacific Iron 2021 volunteers to trim the pathway at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School on Tinian last July 31, 2021. The airman worked with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, military affairs office, and local volunteers to cut grass in preparation for the new school year. Pacific Air Force appreciates the long history of support it has enjoyed in the region and strives to remain a good a partner with the people throughout Micronesia.

Gas prices up by 15 cents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

After over a week since the

first rollback in fuel prices, the CNMI saw another hike in gas prices, this time an increase of 15 cents.

Mobil Oil Marianas led the way early yesterday morning after it raised its fuel prices by 15 cents per gallon.

As of press time, Shell Marianas had yet to increase its prices. Shell Marianas

typically follows Mobil's lead, usually raising its prices a day later, as seen in the past.

From \$4.72 a gallon, Mobil Oil Marianas increased its Extra fuel price to \$4.87 a gallon.

See GAS on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

• he Nutrition Assistance Program of

>> DCCA offices will facilitate the distribution schedule of P-EBT benefits on Tinian, Rota

the Department of Community & Culture Affairs will begin distributing Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer benefits, or P-EBT, this Tuesday, Aug. 10, to approximately 5,314 families on Saipan.

See P-EBT on Page 4

2 more positive cases

>>> Tinian makes own push toward 80% target

By JOSHUA SANTOS

REPORTER

Two additional individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release yesterday. The CNMI's total positive cases since March 28, 2020 is now 198.

In the latest cases, one individual was identified through See 2 MORE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND: Red: Least safe

- Orange Yellow
- Blue Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:01pm, Aug. 3, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:

Days since last community transmission

Pfizer/BioNTech				
Initiated: 27,874				
Fully Vaccinated:	25,823			
Moderna				
Initiated:	4,324			
Fully Vaccinated:	4,062			
Janssen				
Fully vaccinated:	570			

ULD	INEVV	IUIAL
8,564	29	8,593
8,352	9	8,361
60	29	89
143	0	143
OLD	NEW	TOTAL
196	2	198
159	2	161
37	0	37
2	0	2
	8,352 60 143 OLD 196 159	8,564 29 8,352 9 60 29 143 0 0LD NEW 196 2 159 2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Common-

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

30,455 Fully vaccinated **32,198 First dose** Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 showers Tinian with lots of prizes.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

Your favorite dish-in-abowl joint, Poki-Yaki, has moved across the American Memorial Park.

PAGE 13



ASIA

More than 300 people died in flooding in China, three times the previously announced toll.

PAGE 16



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE **QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED** ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



Local

Road to 80's raffle winners get their prizes; \$2,500 this Friday



Tinian resident Patricio Fieldad poses with his \$1,000 prize and Road to 80 raffle host Brad Ruszala at the Saipan Commuter Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Monday.

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 visited Tinian last Friday, where it announced multiple winners of cash prizes and one winner of a smartphone later in the day and gave \$20 per resident who received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine that day at the Tinian Health Center while supplies lasted.

Up for grabs last week was \$2,000 in the campaign's CNMI-wide raffle, \$1,000 and a Samsung S20 with two months of free service in the

special Tinian raffle, and \$100 cash prizes for five Tinian residents courtesy of the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan.

Saipan resident Vicente Iriarte won \$2,000, and will receive his prize today in a handoff that will be livestreamed on Road to 80's Facebook page after he receives his second dose of the vaccine at the Marianas High School vaccination site.

Tinian resident Patricio Fieldad won \$1,000 as part of Road to 80's special Tinian raffle. When raffle host Brad Ruszala first called Fieldad last Friday to tell him he won, Fieldad said he was on Saipan to visit family and will be flying back to Tinian on Monday. As a result, the prize handoff was streamed on Monday morning from the Saipan Commuter Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport, shortly after Road to 80 arrived back on Saipan and before Fieldad departed for his flight to Tinian. Giving brief remarks, Fieldad expressed his gratitude to Road to 80, as the money "will be a very big help to my family."

Tinian police officer Shawn Lee Nicolas Borja was the winner of a brand-new Sam-



Tinian police officer Shawn Lee Nicolas Borja shares a photo with colleagues and Road to 80 raffle host Brad Ruszala outside the Department of Public Safety Building on Tinian on Friday. Borja was the winner of a brand-new Samsung S20 with two free months of service, courtesy of IT&E.

sung S20 smartphone that came with two months of free service, courtesy of IT&E. Ruszala gave Borja the phone last Friday evening at the Department of Public Safety building on Tinian. Giving brief remarks, Borja wished everybody to stay safe, and said he was one of the first on Tinian to receive the vaccine. He told Ruszala that he will be giving the phone to his daughter.

Five Tinian residents were winners of \$100 each. The \$500 in cash was given to Road to 80 by the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. The five were Moses

Reyes, Mary Loise Atalig, Marlena King, Jayver Cruz, and Shiela Mari Borja.

This Friday, Aug. 6, Road to 80 will be selecting one winner of \$2,500 during a livestream on its Facebook page. To qualify, a person must be a CNMI resident and must have already received their first dose of the Pfizer/ BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. Everyone who has registered at vaccinatecnmi. com to be vaccinated and has received their shots qualify for the raffle.

For winners to claim their

*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only

prize, they must submit proof that they are fully vaccinated. For those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, this means providing the second vaccine confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines only need to provide their single vaccine confirmation number.

Road to 80's Facebook page can be found at https://www. facebook.com/roadto80cnmi.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).



CHCC launches online bill payment

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has launched its latest resource for patients who receive care on Saipan: online bill payment for medical services.

Patients can now access their billing information online, quicker, and easier. To pay their bills, patients should visit www.chcc.gov.mp, click on Patient Resources, then click Pay Your Bill.

"This resource will give our patients the opportunity to review and pay their bills online," said Tiffany Sablan, director of revenue services.

"Rather than mailing a check, calling CHCC, or having to drive to the main campus to pay their bills, this flexibility offers our patients convenience and ease of mind."

Patients will also have the option to schedule payments, set up auto-payments, set up an installment plan, and subscribe to email reminders. The system accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards.

Patients can also pay their bills without registering for an account. All that is required for this option is the patient's medical record number, last name, and date of birth.

Plans to include claims from Tinian and Rota Health Centers will be available later in the year.

For more information regarding this service, call (670) 234-8950, ext. 8734/2073. (PR)







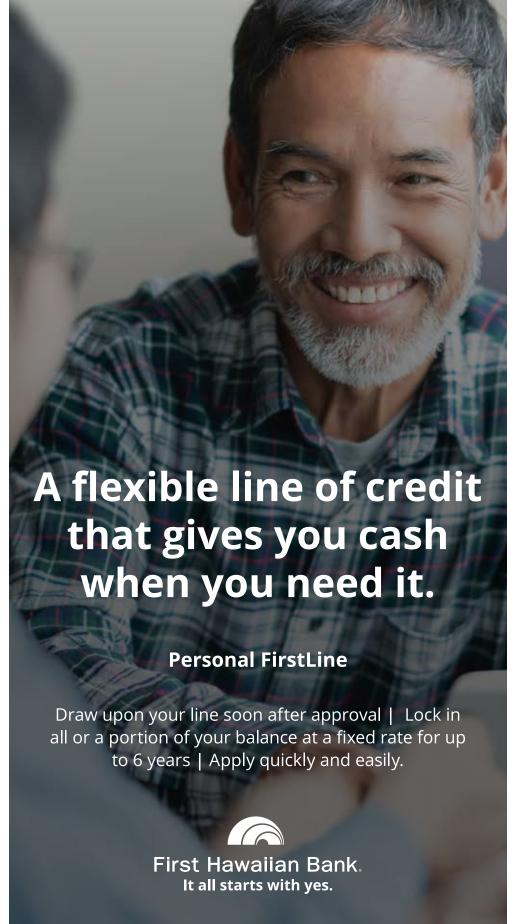




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ON 2022 COROLLAS



LDTF offers \$1K scholarship to those with special needs

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation is offering a total of \$1,000 scholarship award to individuals with special needs.

The deadline to submit the required documents for the LDTF Scholarship

Program is now extended to Friday, Aug. 6.

Eligibility Requirements:

■ Must be enrolled at NMC for the of Micronesia, or Republic of the

fall 2021 semester

■ Must be a U.S. citizen/U.S. permanent resident or a national of the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia or Republic of the

Marshall Islands ■ Must be a CNMI resident for a

- minimum of three years
- Must have proven disability/ disabilities
- Must submit a written essay in response to the prompt: "How can one benefit from obtaining a college degree?" An applicant may submit

an audio or voice recording version of the essay if he or she prefers.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation continues to support individuals with disabilities through the foundation's scholarship program.

For more information, visit https://www.marianas.edu/scholarships. (*PR*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offices closed today, tomorrow

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities today, Aug. 4, and tomorrow, Aug. 5, 2021. To maximize employee participation, NMC offices will be closed on these days.

The college will resume normal business hours on Friday, Aug. 6, 2021.

Individuals who are seeking assistance in applying for NMC's fall 2021 semester can email oar@ marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu for more information. (PR)

Public training on drone operation

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands is offering a training opportunity for the Guam and CNMI community, with the goal to educate the public on the applicable Federal Aviation Administration require-

ments to lawfully operate a drone. An FAA expert will be leading this discussion.

There will also be a panel presentation by Department of Defense partners from AFOSI, CGIS, and NCIS to discuss drone activity surrounding the respective military installations and restricted areas for drone usage.

Training: Community-Basic Understanding and Concepts of Drone Operations

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021 **Time:** 8am–10am Chamorro

Standard Time

Audience: Community

Prerequisites: None

Registration Link: https://usao.webex.com/usao/onstage/g.php? MTID=e0c65a9f380ad17bdb019bc11ff054dde

Platform: WEBEX by CISCO Join Meeting: https://signin.webex.com/join or

Download option: https://www.webex.com/downloads.html (Available in Apple Store or Google Play) *(PR)*

VMI open to Australian tourism market

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com

The CNMI welcomes the possibility of an Australian tourism market that has been in the works for about a year now

According to *Travel Weekly Australia*, Aviation expert Neil Hansford is currently working on setting up a domestic airline called Marianas Pacific that would essentially service an Australian-Saipan route, among other COVID-safe destination routes.

Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds confirmed that Hansford, along with Pacific Rim president Keith Stewart and his team, recently gave a presentation before the CPA board discussing the possibility of establishing a domestic airline in the CNMI that would cater to the Australian market.

Although the idea is still in the works, King-Hinds believes it's a good opportunity for the CNMI that should be seriously considered.

"As we are all aware, the CNMI has always sought stability in our airline service both internationally and interisland. The opening of a new route to Australia presents good opportunities for diversifying our tourism market. I believe discussions are still ongoing but the route presents good opportunities for the CNMI that we should seriously consider and properly vet," she said.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo shared the same opinion, stating that additional markets for the CNMI is a plus as it drives broader economic growth.

"COVID-19 has taught us not to depend on just one market—as one market goes down, we should have

others. Having various types of healthy markets sustains our tourism industry, resulting in job creations, job security, and development of infrastructures, overall enhancing the quality of life for our people," she said.

According to the *Travel Weekly Australia* article, the CNMI checks all the boxes in terms of COVID-19 safety, since the island is nearing herd immunity level of having 80% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated, quality hotels, pristine diving spots, and low crime rate.

The article goes as far as comparing the CNMI, specifically Saipan, to popular vacation destinations like Bali and the Philippines.

With this in mind, Saipan is being touted as an ideal travel spot for Australians eager to travel but who are also hesitant due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Candle J is latest NMC ProaPerks Partner

Candle J is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that give exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive \$2 discount per candle or members can receive a \$5 discount. Candle J is located at

the Garapan Fishing Base every Saturday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Candle J is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.



GAS

From Page 1

Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from \$5.17 a gallon to \$5.32 while its diesel also went up from \$4.88 a gallon to \$5.03.

According to a 22-year-old motorist, he knew the reduction wasn't going to last long. "It was just a matter of time before they hiked it back up.

I'm not surprised. I was more surprised when the prices rolled back, actually," he said.

Another motorist, a 17-year-old female, said it is unfortunate that the rollback only lasted about a week. "They rolled it back 10 cents just to hike it back up by 15 cents. It's like they didn't roll back at all. People are struggling, we shouldn't be hiking prices, we should be lowering them or at the very least keeping them the

same," she said.

An 18-year-old female echoed her friend, stating that maybe it doesn't seem like much to those who are well off, but for those who aren't, 15 cents is a big deal.

"Some people might not care, but for people who are worried about how they're going to make ends meet, 15 cents add up and it's money they can put into buying something to eat," she said.

P-EBT

From Page 1

NAP administrator Walter Macaranas said yesterday that the distribution of P-EBT benefits on Saipan will be done at the NAP office in As Lito and until Aug. 17.

On Tinian and Rota, DCCA offices on those islands will facilitate the distribution schedule, he said. Macaranas said there are approximately 282 households on Tinian and 236 on Rota that will be receiving P-EBT benefits.

P-EBT is a federal program that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million. NAP and the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program are partnering to administer the program.

Macaranas said the P-EBT distribution on Saipan will be issued based on the last name of the head of household who is listed as the parent or legal guardian in their children's school record.

Macaranas encourages the individual who signed the P-EBT application to picks up the benefit at the NAP office in As Lito to avoid any delays.

The NAP office was provided one parent name or legal guardian name, which likely was the parent or legal guardian who signed the application.

Macaranas said the Public School System Child Nutrition Program validated the parent or legal guardian specified in the P-EBT applications that were provided to the NAP office.

Benefits will be issued according to the first letter of the head of household's last name based on the following schedule:

- A to B—Aug. 10
- C to D—Aug. 11
- E to K—Aug. 12

- L to N—Aug. 13
- O to R—Aug. 14
- S to T—Aug. 15 ■ U to Z—Aug. 16
- Open Day—Aug. 17

Macaranas said Open Day is the designated date for households that weren't able to pick up their benefits based on their scheduled date.

The NAP office will issue the benefits from 8am to 6pm daily during the scheduled distribution dates.

"Identification will be required," Macaranas said.

Households will be required to provide a valid photo identification such as a driver's license, passport, municipal identification card, U.S. permanent resident card, etc.

Macaranas said the identity of the parent or legal guardian will be verified against the list of eligible households.

P-EBT benefits will be issued via a drive-thru process at the NAP office in As Lito. "To ensure a smooth process, households will be required to follow the traffic flow for the drive-thru procedure," he said.

Each child in a public school is estimated to receive \$900 in P-EBT coupons. Those coupons can be exchanged for food and other grocery items at select stores on island, similar to regular food stamps.

Macaranas earlier said that the amount of benefits for children in private schools will depend on the school's predominant schedule, which could vary for each private school.

Last June 30, Macaranas disclosed that they received 6,033 applications and, out of those number, verified 5,785.

Macaranas said over 11,000 children are estimated to benefit from the program.

2 MORE

From Page 1

fifth-day testing on Aug. 1, while the other was identified on Aug. 2 through COVID-19 testing on arrival.

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, none of these two individuals were from Korea. The two have since then been quarantined and are being monitored. CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those in closest contact with the two positive individuals.

CHCC also reported that one of the new positive cases was identified on Tinian, and that the person's closest contacts all tested negative for CO-VID-19. CHCC said, "There was no community transmission on Tinian."

In related news, Tinian has recently been making its own push toward reaching 80% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, even before the vaccination campaign Road to 80 visited Tinian last July 30.

According to Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor's Office chief of staff Allen Perez during a Road to 80 livestream last Friday, he said that key members of the Tinian community were brought together to discuss the importance of being vaccinated.

"On Tinian, we do a face-to-face approach. We called in our tour agents, some businesses, certain community leaders from ethnic groups and sat down with them and explained the need for us to revitalize our economy, open our borders, and the need for everybody in the community to work together to get

us to 80 [percent vaccinated],", said Perez.

According to the vaccinatecnmi. com dashboard, as of Aug. 3, 2021. 1,453 Tinian residents, or 57.1% of the Tinian population, are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

In line with this goal and in support of Road to 80, the Tinian Mayor's Office last Friday provided five \$100 cash prizes for a raffle that was open exclusively to Tinian residents who received their first shots of a COVID-19 vaccine at the Tinian Health Center on July 30. According to Road to 80 raffle host Brad Ruszala, around 54 people received their first shots on Tinian last Friday, and were qualified for the raffle. The raffle's winners were Moses Reyes, Mary Loise Atalig, Marlena King, Jayver Cruz, and Shiela Mari Borja.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021 **5**

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Promoters appeal to businesses to have own trash bins

PDM Promoters, Inc. is appealing to food establishments in Saipan's tourist district to install their own trash bins after their cleanup last July 24 yielded 1,540 lbs of rubbish, some of which were Styrofoam food containers.

A total of 17 volunteers—10 Saipan Awaodori Team members and seven Kinpachi Restaurant staff—took part in the cleanup, according to PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa.

"Cloudy skies and rain did not stop our volunteers from doing the scheduled cleanup. They braved the rain to rake the bushes and clear the place of trash. With COVID-19, we actually saw an increase of single-use plastics, masks, gloves, and other trash that we're finding now. We also found piles of trash lined up in between the business establishment buildings," she said.

Siwa appealed to businesses at Paseo de Marianas to do the right thing by placing garbage bins near their establishments to encourage the public to dispose of their trash properly.

"We are asking cooperation from the businesses to have their own trash bins for their trash disposal. ... We also encourage the public to pick up the litter while they are walking, which is one way of volunteering in cleaning up the environment," she said.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are held every Saturday and are supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the non-profit's major sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

Siwa said T-Galleria and TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed for their cleanups. Kinpachi Restauran provides the meal and snacks for volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in August when it conducts its next monthly cleanup of 2021. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Deer conservation bill introduced

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) has introduced legislation that will prohibit deer

hunting for up to two years on Tinian.

House Local Bill 22-20 seeks to ensures that ample supply of food sources on Tinian will be protected for current and future generations.

"Although our deer population is not as numerous as our neighbors [on] Rota, I feel that what little we have on Tinian should be allowed to grow and flourish. I'm currently increasing my efforts to help all native plants and wildlife thrive on

Tinian while maintaining a balanced ecosystem for the benefit of the environment and for fu-

ture generations to enjoy," said San Nicolas.

His staff is also looking into grants and awards that can be given to Tinian to expand education and outreach, increase research, and maintain

wildlife and vegetation.

"The deer are not native, they got to Tinian decades ago. We want to make sure they thrive and be a part of our island and ecosystem, and we must nurture their growth.," San Nicolas added. (PR)

Trial for habitual offender begins today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The bench trial of a habitual offender who is facinng charges of theft is set to begin today, Aug. 4, at 10am at the Superior Court in Susupe.

Vicente S. Basa, 69, a repeat offender who is accused of stealing alcoholic drinks from Twins Supermarket in Dandan, is set to face Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho today for his bench trial.

Basa will be answering to the allegation that he unlawfully took the property of Twins Supermarket in Dandan on March 27, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of its right to the property.

Back in 2020 Basa was arrested for trying to run over a man with a car and repeatedly ramming a parked vehicle in Kagman 3.

In that case, Basa was facing a possible maximum

sentence of 24 years and six months if he had gone to trial. However, because he pleaded guilty to theft of a vehicle, Basa was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all but 90 days suspended. Basa was also given credit for 59 days of time served.

Basa was placed on probation for three years following his release from that case and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$12,955.78 to the victim in the case.

Basa was ordered to pay court costs in the amount of \$25 and his license was immediately revoked, although he could apply for reinstatement of his driver's license six months from his release from prison.

Back in 2017, Basa was charged with assaulting the husband of his niece. Basa pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal and was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for the first 32 days.

Two men lost at sea braved rough seas to seek asylum

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The two men who were lost at sea and were found last Friday reportedly sailed from Saipan to seek asylum in Guam.

According to a Saipan Tribune source, Xiao Wei Quin and Yun Liu Red, who were rescued last Friday 65 miles northwest of Rota after nearly a week since being reported missing, made the journey from Saipan to Guam on July 18 to seek asylum as they are under immigration removal proceedings on Saipan.

After being rescued, the two were brought back to Saipan through the Smiling Cove Marina aboard the merchant vessel *Mito*.

Asylum is protection granted to foreign nationals who suffer persecution or fear they will face persecution for their race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Currently, the CNMI does not offer asylum and Guam is the closest island that offers this protection.

The two reportedly intended to apply for asylum in Guam because they entered the CNMI as tourists back in 2019 and have overstaved

their visas. In addition, one of the men, Xiao, was arrested in 2019 for assault and battery.

Xiao and Yun attempted to illegally enter Guam on a 14-foot skiff and after being reported lost, a large amount of government resources were used to look for them. The two were recovered three day after the U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search last Tuesday, July 27.

The search began Wednesday, July 21, when the black Kodiak skiff the two men were operating was reported overdue while traveling to Guam.

Sector Guam watchstanders received a report from the CNMI Department of Public Safety at 4:16pm that day notifying them that the spouse of one of the individuals had called after being concerned for the mariners' wellbeing. The spouse reported that the two men left Saipan for Guam on July 18, and the last text she received from her husband stated he could see Guam.

Sector Guam watchstanders issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast and deployed assets to search the area, while also coordinating with local and federal partners, including land searches in Guam



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Photo shows the graduates of McDonald's Customer Obsessed Workshop. The training was conducted by the company's in-house training coordinator. Maiellyn Calceta, who flew in from Guam to conduct this workshop for the new employees of McDonald's Saipan. The workshop is all about learning to focus on creating a better customer experience from a customer's perspective. McDonald's support the development of its employees with continuous training to help its people bring out their best.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Fax: (670) 234-9021

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 04, 2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Saipan, MP 96950 I Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Kagman existing 1.0 Million Gallon glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank to a new 1.0 million gallon concrete water tank project.	The new 1.0 Million Gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable, robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Kagman Village, Saipan	\$ 7,232.000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

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/s/ Ralph DLG Torres Governor, CNMI



NEW CERTIFIED LEADERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jamie Rose Bartolome is recognized as a certified people department manager. Aside from promoting qualified individuals to run the daily operation of the business, McDonald's also supports the development of its employees by providing continuous training that sharpens their leadership skills.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNORCaller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB21-GOV-143

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters and Doors at the Office on Aging in Saipan

The project package will be available and may be obtained at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning Wednesday, July 28, 2021, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Tiana Reyes; treyes@omb.gov.mp)

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) \$70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and \$70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez Governor's Authorized Representative David DLG Atalig Secretary of Finance



Jeanette Kaeremius and Marcos Darlucio Jr. are recognized as certified shift managers.



Jerica Bartolome is recognized as a certified shift manager. Mc-Donald's supports the development of its employees by providing continuous training that sharpens their leadership skills. One of the most important things McDonald's has done in this regard is providing a good and healthy work environment that fosters leadership qualities in all its people.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) MVA-RFP-21-2023

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the JAPAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority Attn: Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose

September 10, 2021 Time: 3:00PM ChST

P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after July 20, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA - RFP -21- 2023 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET".

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before September 10, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to Imaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM., Chamorro Standard Time on August 30, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors /s/ Priscilla M. lakopo Managing Director, MVA



Melba Camacho is recognized as a certified shift manager. солтяющее рнот



Michael Morales is recognized as a certified shift manager.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

els: (670) 234-6866 234-9447 234-7689 234-7670 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 04, 2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Saipan, MP 96950 I Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Dan Dan existing .50 million gallon glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank to a new 1.0 million gallon concrete water tank project.	The new 1.0 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable, robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Dan Dan Vi ll age, Saipan	\$ 7,048.000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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/s/ Ralph DLG Torres Governor, CNMI

Opinion



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MEMBER

Ap The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Bankrupted by medical debt

merican health care is too expensive. Exhibit A is a new study of Americans' medical debt published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. That debt is twice as large as had previously been estimated—\$140 billion in collections as of June 2020, compared to an earlier estimate of \$81 billion. And it disproportionately affects the dozen states like Missouri that have refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

Despite a referendum that approved Medicaid expansion, and the fact that the federal government would have paid 90% of the cost, Missouri legislators refused to expand Medicaid during their last session. By doing so, they turned down a \$10-to-\$1 federal match on the cost of expanding Medicaid, and likely consigned more Missourians to bankruptcy.

One out of 6 Americans, roughly 18% of the population, had medical debt being pursued by collectors during June 2020. Millions more owe medical debt that hasn't yet been sent to collections, either because they are making payments or because they paid their medical debts with high interest credit cards.

In 2019, when much of that debt was incurred, Americans spent \$3.8 trillion on health care, an average of \$11,582 for every man, woman and child in the country. Add another \$427 per person to that figure. That's the population average medical debt in collections during June 2020.

Many people think of medical debt the same way they think about debt incurred by, say, buying a new car: Don't buy what you can't afford. But if someone needs a car and can't afford a Mercedes, there's always a Kia option. There is no Kia option for health care. A person who has cancer and needs chemotherapy is administered the same expensive drugs that doctors would give to Jeff Bezos or Bill Gates.

Among the roster of people in medical bankruptcy, earlier studies have found, are people who had insurance and those who didn't.

In no other developed country are citizens at risk of bankruptcy simply because they fell ill. As the new study shows, such bankruptcies are frighteningly common here. It's time for Congress and state legislatures—including Missouri's—to act.

The No Surprises Act is designed to protect Americans from unexpected medical bills. But Missouri lawmakers still stand in the way of Medicaid expansion to help low-income people avoid deeper medical debt. But neither of those acts, by themselves, will solve America's health care crisis.

Research has shown over decades why American health care is so expensive. It isn't that we use more care, or that we have access to newer drugs and technologies than people in other developed countries.

The real reason was explained by the late Princeton health economist Uwe Reinhardt in a 2003 journal article, "It's the prices, stupid." Until Americans focus on those higher prices, the trail of bankruptcies will continue to grow as more and more Americans are left behind.

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Want creative, happy kids? Put them on 'kairos time'

n the way to kindergarten, various accounts hold (with slightly varying details), Orville Wright passed a neighbor's barn where he found an old, broken-down sewing machine. Fascinated, he spent the day taking apart the contraption. For the next month, rather than attend school, he and a friend hid in the barn and reassembled the machine. When his teacher told young Orville's father that his son hadn't been to school, he went to see how the boy was spending his time. Appreciating Orville's curiosity and ingenuity, the father deemed it time well spent and urged him to continue on.

Could we imagine parents today letting their children take similar time to explore and learn, to follow their curiosity? Could we imagine allowing ourselves this freedom? Before the pandemic, I certainly could not.

In March of last year, when life as we knew it shut down and restrictions abounded, I simultaneously experienced the gift of time opening up and slowing down. Rather than zipping off to a next event on a crammed calendar, my husband and I took long, leisurely strolls through our neighborhood, where children, freed from their own hectic schedules, played hopscotch, rode bikes and drew on the street with chalk—no watchful parents in sight.

These scenes brought back memories of timeless hours passed with my own children when they were young, picking up rocks, counting the number of legs on a caterpillar or trying to catch our shadows. Or even further back, my own childhood summers, when my five siblings and I, along with neighborhood kids, spent hours building forts out of sticks.

Before then, my days were like a lot of Americans'—clocked in scheduled units of seconds, minutes and hours, or in my case, as a psychotherapist, 45-minute hours. Ancient Greeks named this chronos time, for the Titan god of time, Cronus.

After March 15, 2020, we were suddenly living more in the moment, or what the Greeks called kairos time, named for Cronus' brother Kairos. Kairos time is measured not by the passing of hours or years, but in experiences: memorable moments of awe, like when we fall in love or gaze at the majesty of the Grand Tetons; or moments of trauma, such as 9/11—or, more recently, the pandemic, a time of incalculable suffering and loss for millions.

Young children, by nature, live in kairos time, where one day blends into the next; filled with moments both insignificant and momentous, where something new and unexpected can happen. Kairos time allows for openness, an expansion of boundaries. Sadly, this state doesn't last long today.

Many older children and adolescents nowadays live in chro-

By KERRY L. MALAWISTA

The Baltimore Sun

Kerry L. Malawista (www.drkerrymalawista.com), is a writer and psychoanalyst in Potomac, Maryland. She is co-chair of New Directions in Writing, a board member at the Washington Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis and founder of the recent project The Things They



of the recent project The Things They Carry—offering virtual writing workshops for health care and front line workers.

nos time, always moving forward, marching to complete a never-ending list of pursuits—sports, music lessons, tutoring. Too often, those activities are performed not for what they offer in the present, but for some distant goal, such as getting into a top college. The rare hour or two when they might, say, lie in the grass, lost in memories, fantasies and imagining, are instead spent inside, attached to an electronic gadget.

Few kids seem to take real pleasure in these activities. Instead, they are exhausted, and merely going through the motions. They have no time to linger, to experiment, and often decide that if they aren't "talented," they should give up. As Stanford child psychiatrist Alvin Rosenfeld, author of "The Over-Scheduled Child," wrote, "By the time [teens] reach high school, they are bored and burned out." The impact of this deadly pace is evident in the increase in adolescent depression, anxiety and suicide.

If we want our children to find true success, to discover a passion—whatever their definition of success and passion might be—we grown-ups need to be a bit more like Orville's dad, a kairos father, who allowed his son time to make mistakes, struggle and figure things out for himself. Milton Wright was a conservative clergyman who encouraged his children to read both religious books and books that questioned faith, both of which he kept on his shelves. He seemingly understood that to discover anything of value requires an opportunity to try, fail, question and try again. It paid off for Orville Wright and his older brother, Wilbur, who are credited with inventing human flight.

Creativity arises from long periods of freedom, followed by moments of surprise, wonder and inspiration. The alternative is to follow the path of Cronus, who, the myth holds, devoured his own children—the past thus suppressing the future.

Just imagine what our children might create and discover if we allowed them—and ourselves—the freedom to stop time, to relish the impossible, to once again live in kairos time.

Some bad signs for America in a new way of war

omething like a new Cold War is getting hotter even if the United States seems in confused retreat. As evidence of aggression vs. acquiescence, listen to what Sen. Ted Cruz. R.-Texas, asked three top security officials at a congressional hearing without getting an answer. He wanted to know why there had been no sanctions against China for massive hacking of tens of thousands of computers likely hurting the U.S. in endless ways.

An enemy of zipped lips himself, Cruz forthrightly told these officials that the lackadaisical reaction was "showing weakness to China and weakness to Russia." America, he said, was thereby inviting more aggression and more cyberattacks,

Earlier in the hearing, questioners focused on Russia, and President Joe Biden has in fact exacted penalties for such moves as interference in our 2020 elections. Later, at a Geneva conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the president issued warnings that the United States would retaliate if Putin did nothing to stop cyberattacks of ambiguously specified kinds coming from Russia. Since that redline statement, attacks have been coming hard and heavy with a soft and lightweight reaction as Russia says it cannot control criminal groups, which it can.

By way of leadership contrast, Putin recently explained to the world that Russia had developed the first-ever hypersonic missiles that can easily drop nuclear bombs anywhere on the planet within 30 minutes. They will be "unstoppable," he said, and most will likely be aimed at the United States. Our own failure to modernize weapons is frightening. Officers have therefore rearranged a diminished military budget to better serve the weaponry cause. Don't count on hypersonic success.

Singing a song similar to Putin's, President XI Jinping of China recently said that no foreign force was ever going to "bully, oppress or enslave us" again. China, which deserves a gold medal for bullying, oppression and enslavement, has lately emphasized that it is going to take back the thriving island of Taiwan still legally its own. Analysts say China would have major advantages if the United States intervened, not least because of weapon deficiencies.

Dictator Xi also has pronounced that China is on "an irreversible historic course" to become the world's "biggest su-

Leave China and Russia for a minute and visit Afghanistan, from which al-Qaida terrorists arose to assault New York City and Washington, D.C., on 9/11. The US military rushed across the ocean to wipe out al-Qaida, which shriveled up and is attempting a comeback. The U.S. also ended the Taliban's hateful, hurtful, totalitarian government, but did not eliminate key players who hid out in Pakistan.

We hung around for 20 years, losing 2,312 military personnel, but were never very sure of what we were up to, according to a Washington Post series. We indulged in nation building that was mostly futile, although we did help construct a peaceful if fragile government before Biden said we were departing. Not a few forecasters speculate that the Taliban will take over, coalesce

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



with other demon nations, inflict misery on the innocent and recultivate 9/11-style tactics. Expert advice ranges from U.S. use of airpower to helping Afghanistan financially.

Finally, let's visit famished Iran, which is spending billions on a nuclear-weapons future. In a nuclear deal bypassing the constitutionally required treaty process, President Barack Obama and friends ineptly agreed that Iran should keep the basic means of making nuclear weapons, keep testing missiles and keep funding terrorism. His successor ended the mess, restoring sanctions, and the successor's successor wants to restart the mess, restoring most of the deal.

Iran wants to leave it to the United Nations about whether we would ever reinstitute sanctions again, and look at what is coming: a newly elected Iranian president named Ebrahim Raisi, who, in 1988, was part of a small government gang that hanged some 5,000 Iranian citizens who were not politically correct.

He will be tough, and, at the very least, we must listen to those understanding that gentleness in return does not preserve peace.

Personal responsibility matters in fight against COVID. So does good public health info

Greg Abbott issued a new executive order that will make it harder for local officials to require face coverings, including in schools, and forbids the state from mandating vaccines.

"Today's executive order will provide clarity and uniformity in the Lone Star State's continued fight against COVID-19," said Abbott in an accompanying statement. "The new Executive Order emphasizes that the path forward relies on personal responsibility rather than government mandates.'

Whether you agree with the directive or believe, in light of new masking guidance from the CDC and vaccine mandates for federal employees, that to limit government authority during a pandemic is a fool's errand, you have to give Abbott credit for his consistency and simplicity in messaging: Personal responsibility > government mandates.

That's certainly more than can be said for many public health authorities, who have muddled and undermined their own recommendations with remarkable frequency throughout the pandemic.

The about-face on masks is yet another example.

After months of reassuring Americans that being fully vaccinated neutralized their ability to spread COVID-19, and weeks after issuing guidance that vaccinated individuals no longer needed to wear masks, the CDC is now recommending that even vaccinated people should again be masking indoors.

The reason, according to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky,

ORT WORTH, Texas—On Thursday, Texas Gov. is that "in rare occasions, some vaccinated people infected with the delta variant after vaccination may be contagious and pass the virus to others."

> It's understandable that public health guidance is subject to change as new research emerges; that's a given.

But the explanation was initially offered without supporting data. An internal CDC document upon which the recommendation was apparently made has since shed some light on the decision, but the data contained therein has drawn criticism for its

Of course, we know from experience that data (let alone good data) isn't always the driving force behind public health recommendations

That certainly appears to be the case when it comes to the CDC's other recent recommendation that students as well as all teachers and staff mask during the school year, regardless of vaccination status

This recommendation comes even though we know from experience (and voluminous research) that COVID-19 is less deadly to children than other common illnesses like the flu.

This is true even for the delta variant.

It is harder for children to get COVID-19 and harder for them

And there are legitimate reasons to worry that the masks we make children wear have potentially serious negative consequences, both physical and developmental.

What's more is that it is becoming increasingly clear that the

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



virus surges and declines in ways that human behavior cannot seem to control or explain.

The uptick in cases, courtesy of the delta variant, is real and

But even The New York Times, which has not always regarded public health recommendations uncritically, acknowledges that the delta outbreaks in both India and the U.K. rose and then plunged without any clear behavioral explanation.

Much to our collective chagrin, human efforts to contain the virus-masking, distancing, shutdowns and even vaccines (if Walensky is correct)—appear to have some control over viral spread, but to a far more limited effect than we like to admit.

That takes us back to Gov. Abbott and his message of personal responsibility.

While that message doesn't resonate with everyone—particularly when it's easier to blame unfortunate circumstances on the behaviors of everyone else—it's starting to have the ring of truth.

But to behave responsibly, people need to have good information from sources they can trust, who acknowledge both what they know and what they don't.

I certainly hope Texans will behave responsibly. When are they going to have the information necessary to do so?

We don't need women to register for the draft

f you wonder what Republicans are accomplishing in Washington, look no further than the Senate Armed Services committee, where a majority of them voted to create the predicate for drafting women into the military.

Astonishingly, only five of the committee's 13 GOP members voted against an amendment requiring women to begin to register for the Selective Service.

It's unclear why this is a pressing national need, or why anyone believes that it would help during a major war. Perversely, though, it's considered a blow for gender equity, and, of course, that overwhelms all other considerations for Democrats and Republicans alike.

Currently, men between the ages of 18 and 26 must register with the Selective Service. This is the database that, in theory, we'd draw on in the event of a military draft.

A draft, which we haven't had since the Vietnam War, isn't supposed to be a mechanism for making people feel good about themselves or a tool of so-called social justice. Its purpose is to funnel manpower into the military as expeditiously as possible during a national crisis.

A draft is a gargantuan effort. As Max Margulies of West Point and Amy Rutenberg of Iowa State University note, during World War II, more than 180,000 volunteers helped process draftees at 11,000 draft and appeals boards. During Vietnam, 31,000 people did this work.

It would unnecessarily complicate this inherently difficult task to also screen all the young women in the country to find those suited to military roles at a time when, presumably, we'd need to quickly find and train new soldiers en masse.

Although women serve admirably and honorably in the armed services, the military is still overwhelmingly male. According to a recent GAO report, the percentage of women in the military overall has increased only slightly, from 15.1% in 2004 to 16.5% in 2018. The numbers are tiny when it to comes to compat arms As of late 2019, 653 women were serving in combat roles in the Army and 231 female Marines in combat arms billets.

With notable exceptions, women aren't as physically capable as men. A Marine Corps study released in 2015 found that all-male units performed better than gender-integrated units on 69% of tasks. All-male units were faster. They were more accurate in firing weapons. They engaged targets more quickly. They were more adept at negotiating obstacles. And they were better at evacuating casualties.

The Marine study noted higher rates of injury for women than for men, resulting from higher levels of fatigue because women simply aren't as strong. Women got hurt at six times the rate of men during entry-level training, and during the assessment for the study, the musculoskeletal injury rate for women was 40.5% and 18.8% for men.

The males in the study weighed on average 178 pounds with 20% body fat; the females 142 pounds with 24% body fat. The

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review



women had 15% less aerobic power (the top 25th percentile of women overlapped with the bottom 25th percentile of men), and 15% less aerobic capacity (the top 10th percentile of women overlapped with the bottom 50th percentile of men).

Israel, which drafts both men and women, is often cited as a counterexample. Surrounded by larger hostile countries, it is an international outlier, though, truly desperate for sheer numbers.

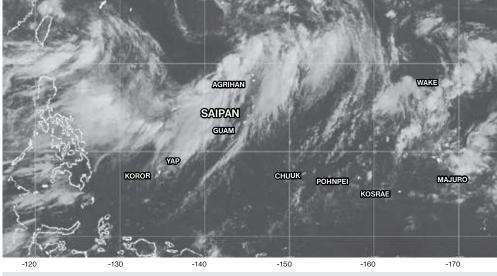
Getting women to register for the draft has been a longtime priority of "men's rights" groups that think it's unfair that males in the United States should be asked to shoulder a disproportionate burden defending their society the way men have across all cultures since time immemorial.

Then, there are feminists who believe that it is only by raising the prospect of drafting females to fight our wars that women can truly become first-class citizens.

Neither of these is a good argument, but Congress is inclined to use the Selective Service to make a social point anyway.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN FRIDAY SATURDAY Mostly cloudy in Partly cloudy with Mostly cloudy with Mostly cloudy with the morning then and isolated and isolated becoming partly Light and variable cloudy. Isolated winds becoming east thunderstorms. thunderstorms around 10 mph in the winds 10 to 15 mph afternoon. 77° **77º** 870 870 87° YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:42 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

Guam Doppler weather radar shows widely scattered showers within the Marianas Waters, with more showers to both the southeast and northwest. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 2 to 3 feet, which are composed mainly of east swells, with a bit of south swell which could be wraparound from the west monsoon swells.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10. Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/ coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthouseholdready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

if you become symptomatic

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- □ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the CO-VID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:57 AM	3:17 PM	-
Thursday	2:44 AM	4:10 PM	-
Friday	3:35 AM	5:02 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:53 PM	-
Sunday	5:24 AM	6:41 PM	-

AROUND TH	E GLOBE	▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 77°
Paris	Thunderstorms	68° / 54°
Busan	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Tokyo	Cloudy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET						
3:13 AM	High Tide	1.77				
11:00 AM	Low Tide	0.23				
6:35 PM	High Tide	1.75				
11:21 PM	Low Tide	1.41				

	GHIS	CHE	DULE A	5 OF F	NUGU	51 1,	2021
	DEPAR	TURES			AR	RIVALS	
SAIPAN-	GUAM (GUI	M)		GUAM (G	ium)-sair	PAN	
UA117 UA117	9:15am 6:30am	9:55am 7:10am	2, 4, 5, 7 1, 3, 6	UA174 UA174	4:50am 7:30am	5:50am 8:11am	1, 3, 6 2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-	MANILA (M	INL)		MANILA	(MNL)-SA	IPAN	
UA117/183 UA117/183		8:50pm 9:10pm	2, 5 via Guam 3, 6, 7 via Guam			5:50am+1 8:11am+1	2, 5 via Guam 3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-M	IANILA (MN	IL)		MANILA	(MNL)-GU	IAM	
UA183 UA183	6:55pm 7:15pm	8:50pm 9:10pm	2, 5 3, 6, 7	UA184 UA184	9:50pm 10:25pm	4:00am+1 4:40am+1	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021 8.00 8:15 Daily **SAIPAN TO ROTA** Daily 1203 9:00 9:15 ARRIVAL FREQUENCY FLIGHT # DEPARTURE 10:00 10:15 Daily 1301 8:30AM 9:00AM Daily 1205 11:00 11:15 Daily 1302 11:30AM 11:00AM Daily 1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily 1303 1:30PM 2:00PM Tues/Wed/ Unavailable Thurs/Fri 1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily 1304 3:30PM 4:00PM Daily Unavailable 1208 14:00 14:15 Daily **ROTA TO SAIPAN** 1209 15:00 15:15 Daily FLIGHT# DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY 1210 16:00 16:15 Daily 3101 9:30AM 10:00AM Daily 1211 17:00 17:15 Daily 3102 12:00AM 12:30AM Daily 1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily 3103 1:30PM 3:00PM Tues/Wed/ Unavailable Thurs/Fri 3104 4:30PM 5:00PM Daily **TINIAN TO SAIPAN ROTA TO** FLIGHT # 3401

				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO	GUAM			2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
			Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
GUAM TO	ROTA			2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
SAIPAN 1	TO TINIAN			2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
			Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily
							Unavailable

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021 **13**

Business

Poki-Yaki now located across AMP

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

our favorite Hawaiian and Japanese dishin-a-bowl has moved to the FISG Building across the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Poki-Yaki owner Thorn Sablan said they moved to the new location only last July 7.

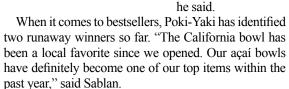
"We relocated because we just wanted to offer more convenience to our customers," he said.

Since moving to their new digs, Poki-Yaki appears to have succeeded in increasing their clientele with the more accessible location. "Business has been going good. We are looking forward to foot traffic with tour-

ists in the future."

While its popular build-your-own poki continues to be a hit, Sablan said they have introduced new items to its old menu.

"For the most part, our menu is still the same but we do have lunch specials available. One of them is our spicy tuna inari. It's tofu pockets filled with seasoned sushi rice, spicy tuna, spicy mayo, and garnished with green onions," he said



MARK RABAGO

Poki-Yaki is now located across American

Memorial Park in the FISG Building in Ga-

While Poki-Yaki has enjoyed brisk sales since their relocation, Sablan said they're not fully operational yet as they are currently only open during lunchtime. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are only open for lunch instead of our usual lunch and dinner time and our Saturday lunch as well. Hopefully we will resume our Saturday hours soon."



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB No.: ITB21-GOV-132

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 27, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters and Doors at the Tinian Youth Center and Tinian Office on Aging

The project package will be available and may be obtained at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning Wednesday, July 28, 2021, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Victor Cabrera; vacabrera@omb.gov.mp)

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) \$70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and \$70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez Governor's Authorized Representative

David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance

Poki-Yaki also recently became a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, where all card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on any food and/or drink purchase

"Thank you all for your continuing support during these unprecedented times. We are happy to be serving you all!" said Sablan.

Poki-Yaki opened in Gualo Rai in August 2017 as a standalone poki and teriyaki establishment. It is open from Monday to Friday at 11am-2pm. They can be reached at 233-YAKI (9254) and their lines are open starting at 10:30am for preorders or pick-up orders.



Poki-Yaki's Poki Nachos and Hafa Adai açai/pitaya bowl.

MARK RABAGO



at the establishment.

Tels: (670) 234-6866 234-9447 234-7689 234-7670

Fax: (670) 234-9021

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 04, 2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Tinian Carolinas .50 million gallon welded steel water tank to a new .50 million gallon concrete water tank project	The new .50 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Carolinas Heights Village, Tinian	\$ 5,180.000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres Governor, CNMI

Nation

US hits 70% vaccination rate—a month late, amid a surge

he U.S. on Monday finally reached President Biden's goal of getting at least one COVID-19 shot into 70% of American adults -- a month late and amid a fierce surge by the delta variant that is swamping hospitals and leading to new mask rules and mandatory vaccinations around the country.

In a major retreat in the Deep South, Louisiana ordered nearly everyone, vaccinated or not, to wear masks again in all indoor public settings, including schools and colleges. And other cities and states likewise

moved to reinstate precautions to counter a crisis blamed on the fast-spreading variant and stubborn resistance to getting the vaccine.

"As quickly as we can discharge them they're coming in and they're coming in very sick. We started seeing entire families come down," lamented Dr. Sergio Segarra, chief medical officer of Baptist Hospital Miami. The Florida medical-center chain reported an increase of over 140% in the past two weeks in the number of people now hospitalized with the virus.

Biden had set a vaccination

goal of 70% by the Fourth of July. That figure was the low end of initial government estimates for what would be necessary to achieve herd immunity in the U.S. But that has been rendered insufficient by the highly contagious delta variant, which has enabled the virus to come storming back.

There was was no celebration at the White House on Monday, nor a setting of a new target, as the administration instead struggles to overcome skepticism and outright hostility to the vaccine, especially in the South and other rural and conservative areas.

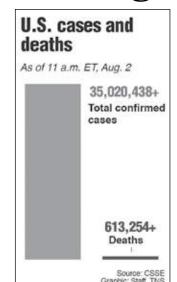
The U.S. still has not hit the administration's other goal of fully vaccinating 165 million American adults by July 4. It is about 8.5 million short.

New cases per day in the U.S. have increased sixfold over the past month to an average of nearly 80,000, a level not seen since mid-February. And deaths per day have climbed over the past two weeks from an average of 259 to 360.

Those are still well below the 3,400 deaths and a quartermillion cases per day seen during the worst of the outbreak, in January. But some places around the country are watching caseloads reach their highest levels since the pandemic began. And nearly all deaths and serious illnesses now are in unvaccinated people.

The surge has led states and cities across the U.S. to beat a retreat, just weeks after it looked as if the country was going to see a close-tonormal summer.

Health officials in San Francisco and six other Bay Area counties announced Monday they are reinstating a requirement that everyone-vaccinated or not-wear masks in public indoor spaces. (AP)





OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR INVITATION TO BID (ITB) ITB21-OPA-002



'PURCHASE OF TWENTY (20) EACH DELL LAPTOPS / DOCKS / MONITORS / UPS / WIRELESS KEBOARDS & MOUSE COMBO"

The specifications may be obtained at the administrative office, located at 1236 yap drive, capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours (monday – friday, 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, closed on holidays).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MICHELLE A. CAMACHO, OPA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR E-MAIL TO mcamacho@opacmi.com.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA, ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDERS.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) RFP21-CHCC-HIT-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 9, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

<u>"CHCC LABORATORY INTERFACE NETWORK EXPANSION"</u>

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR** PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BEJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

EQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC-ELC-002 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGST 9th, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

'PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ) INFORMATICS ANALYSIS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

<u>/S/ CORAZON P. ADA</u> Director of procurement & supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



JVA No. 21 – 059

POSITION TITLE:

CONTRACT:

POSITION(S):

Opening Date: July 27, 2021 Closing Date: August 9, 2021

IT Technician

DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY:

COA/Information Technology Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$22,865.00 - \$30,867.00 per annum, Non-Exempt

Not Contracted

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of COA/IT Division.

Duties:

- Provides end user support for technology hardware, software, telecommunications, AV and/or peripheral systems; sets up equipment ensuring proper cabling; performs installation, testing, patches/upgrades, and maintenance activities in support of technology operations.
- Performs call and in-person Tier I and Tier II technical support to end users; prioritizes requests; responds to queries;
- researches system documentation as required; provides instruction to users; implements solutions to computer and network issues. Monitors and maintains user accounts for various systems; creates and initiates user accounts on network server and other systems;
- troubleshoots connectivity issues and resolves communication problems or refers complex issues to appropriate resource.
- Assists in evaluating and testing new software and equipment; documents and provides feedback of testing results.
- Sets up and installs systems and AV equipment for training purposes
- Perform other duties of similar nature and level as assigned by management.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Associates Degree in Information Technology or directly related field and 1 years of related professional information technology experience; or High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of experience related to technology support; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.

Knowledge of Applicable hardware, software, system and technology principles, methods and support techniques; Systems analysis and design methods, procedures and techniques; Business methods, principles and practices; maintenance principles; Modern office technology, Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.

Skills in: Providing analysis and design in support of information technology and business processes; Evaluating and maintaining existing systems and equipment; Developing and implementing technology solutions to meet business requirements; Analyzing system performance, troubleshooting issues and maintaining system functionality; Monitoring, configuring, installing, testing and maintaining assigned systems and equipment; Preparing and maintaining reports, system documentation, and procedures; Providing technical end-user support and training of software and systems; Prioritizing requests and managing time; Serving as technical liaison with internal staff and external service providers; Recommending the acquisition of software and equipment; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

> P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131 CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

NOTICE OF ADOPTED WATER SPORTS REGULATIONS AND LIFTING OF MORATORIUMON ISSUANCE OF NEW MOTORIZED WATERSPORTS PERMITS

The Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Regulatory Agencies have adopted amendments to NMIAC Chapter 15-20 to repeal all existing Jet Ski Rules and Regulations at NMIAC §§ 15-20-101 to 15-20-405 and adopt new Water Sports Regulations at NMIAC §§ 15-20-001 to 15-20-705. On July 22, 2021, these regulations were adopted as final by the CRM Regulatory Agencies in a public meeting and the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) Director was authorized to promulgate these regulations on behalf of the CRM Regulatory

The issuance of new commercial motorized watersports permits in Saipan has been suspended since 2014. The notice of suspension stated that "The purpose of this temporary suspension is to further develop new and/or improve current regulations for the watersports industry. Consideration for new watersports permits will resume upon approved BECQ-DCRM regulations." The adoption of these regulations was published in the Commonwealth Register, Volume 43, Number 07, on July 28, 2021. Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9105(b), these adopted amendments are effective 10 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register. Therefore, the suspension on the issuance of new commercial watersports permits is lifted as of the effective date of the regulations

Based on the implementation of the Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP) and associated stakeholder engagement process, DCRM's updated Water Sports Regulations include an expanded listing of various Water Sports and Recreational Activities and restrict the issuance of Water Sports Permits to one per person/business entity in various categories, with a limit to the ximum number of permits DCRM can issue for each category of activity. As such, some Sports and Recreational Activities categories will have a limited number of permits available to new applicants. Prospective applicants are welcome to consult with DCRM's Permitting section for more information regarding the changes to the regulations.

As detailed in NMIAC § 15-20-115(c), applications for new Water Sports Permits shall be processed by DCRM on a first-come, first-served basis (i.e., in the order each complete application is received by DCRM). Updated applications will be available at DCRM's office and on its website at www.dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/downloadable-application-forms/ on August 10, 2021. Only complete applications will be accepted by the DCRM office for processing.

All current marine sport operator permits will be re-issued to reflect updated permit conditions. No further action is required for all current permittees.

For more questions or more information, please contact the DCRM Permitting Section at (670) 664-8300 or permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. BECQ client hours are Monday-Friday from 8am to 3pm.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO, Director Division of Coastal Resources Management

ACROSS THE NATION

Record wildfire burns amid drought on Hawaii's Big Island

HONOLULU (AP)—Firefighters have gotten more control over a wildfire in Hawaii that forced thousands of people to evacuate over the weekend and destroyed at least two homes on the Big Island, but officials warned strong winds Monday could raise the danger again. Authorities have lifted evacuation orders but warned they could be reinstated at any time and that people should be ready to go. "It's the biggest (fire) we've ever had on this island," Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth said of the more than 62-squaremile (160-square-kilometer) blaze. "With the drought conditions that we've had, it is of concern. You see something like this where you're putting thousands of homes in danger, it's very concerning." Fires in Hawaii are unlike many of those burning in the U.S. West. They tend to break out in large grasslands on the dry sides of the islands and are generally much smaller than mainland fires. Even though Hawaii has a wet, tropical climate that isn't typically at risk from large fires, blazes could become more frequent as climate change-related weather patterns intensify.

Report details dramatic hot-air balloon crash in New England

PIERMONT, N.H. (AP)— A preliminary report released Monday details how three passengers were able to radio for help and crash-land a hot-air balloon without injury in July, after their pilot and a fourth passenger were thrown overboard by the impact of an initial crash and bounce back to the sky. The pilot, Brian Boland, 72, died in the crash. He took flight July 15 from an airport he owned in Thetford, Vermont, with four passengers aboard the balloon that was registered for sightseeing, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The balloon flew northeast along the Connecticut River, cruising for about 45 minutes before Boland reported that the pilot light on the burner was out. Boland changed to a new propane tank, but could not find the striker to relight the burner, a passenger told the safety board. Boland found a backup striker and relit the burner, but the balloon had descended too far to avoid impact with the earth. It made contact in a field south of Bradford, Vermont, throwing a passenger from the basket and sending the pilot overboard with a foot entangled in the balloon's attach rope, ac-

cording to the safety board.

11 hours of questioning for Cuomo in harassment inquiry

NEW YORK (AP)—Investigators conducting an inquiry into sexual harassment allegations against New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo questioned him for eleven hours when he met with them last month, The New York Times reported Monday. The Times spoke to five people who had been briefed on the meeting, and who recounted some details on the condition of anonymity. The Times reported that at points, the videotaped interview was tense, with Cuomo challenging one of the investigators on his fairness and independence. When the investigators were done, they left through an exit away from the building entrance where photographers were, the paper said. Asked about his meeting with investigators at a press conference on Monday, Cuomo declined to say anything. "I said I would cooperate with it and at the appropriate time I will comment

on the review," he said. "But this is not the appropriate time yet." State Attorney General Letitia James hired the investigators to conduct the probe after several women accused Cuomo of subjecting them to inappropriate kisses and touching or inappropriate sexual remarks. Cuomo has denied the allegations.

Graham 1st vaccinated senator to test positive for COVID-19

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)— Sen. Lindsey Graham has become the first senator to disclose a breakthrough infection after being vaccinated against the coronavirus, saying Monday he is "very glad" he received the vaccine, without which his current symptoms would be "far worse." The news prompted several other lawmakers to get quick COVID-19 tests and report their status. A handful of Senate colleagues spent part of the weekend working and socializing with the South Carolina

Republican, who attended a gathering on Sen. Joe Manchin's houseboat the evening that he first developed symptoms. In a statement issued Monday afternoon, Graham said he "started having flulike symptoms Saturday night" and went to the doctor Monday morning. After being notified of his positive test, Graham said he would quarantine for 10 days. "I feel like I have a sinus infection, and at present time, I have mild symptoms," the 66-yearold Graham said. "I am very glad I was vaccinated because without vaccination, I am certain I would not feel as well as I do now. My symptoms would be far worse."

3 dead, 1 hurt in rural South Carolina shooting

S.C. GREENWOOD, (AP)—Three people were

killed and one other person was hurt in a shooting Monday in rural South Carolina, and deputies released the are scrambling to keep up with

name and picture of a man they want to interview. The shooting happened around 3 p.m. at a Greenwood County home just off U.S. Highway 25 about 8 miles (13 kilometers) south of Greenwood, the Sheriffs Office said in a news release. Sheriff's Office Maj. Cody Bishop confirmed the three killed in the shooting to The Index-Journal of Greenwood. He didn't give a motive for the shooting. Deputies named Jeffery David Powell, 36, a person of interest and released two photos of him. They didn't give a reason investigators want to talk to him. The State Law Enforcement Division has been called to help with the investigation, and police dogs were seen searching the area around the home.

Air travel hits another pandemic high, flight delays grow

DALLAS (AP)—Air travel in the U.S. is hitting new pandemic-era highs, and airlines

the summer-vacation crowds. Despite rising numbers of coronavirus infections fueled by the delta variant, the U.S. set another recent high mark for air travel Sunday, with more than 2.2 million people going through airport checkpoints, according to the Transportation Security Administration. That is nearly 11,000 more people screened than July 18, and the highest number since Feb. 28, 2020, before the U.S. felt the full brunt of the pandemic. However, air travel was still down 17% Sunday from the same Sunday in 2019. The resurgence of leisure travel, coupled with some bad weather, has led to delays and flight cancellations at airlines struggling to ramp up after being crushed by the pandemic. Airlines have thousands fewer workers than they did before the pandemic, and at times they have been caught short-staffed even though they received \$54 billion in taxpayer money to keep employees on the payroll.



Asia

Death toll triples to more than 300 in China floods

BEIJING (AP)—More than 300 people died in recent flooding in central China, authorities said Monday, three times the previously announced toll.

The Henan provincial government said 302 people died and 50 remain missing. The vast majority of the victims were in Zhengzhou, the provincial capital, where 292 died and 47 are missing. Ten others died in three other cities, officials said at a news conference in Zhengzhou.

Record rainfall inundated the city on July 20, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line. Video posted online showed vehicles being washed away and desperate people trapped in subway cars as the waters rose. Fourteen people died in the subway flooding.

The previous death toll, announced Friday, was 99.

Authorities said 189 people were killed by floods and mudslides, 54 in house collapses and 39 in underground areas such as basements and garages and including those on subway Line 5. The death toll remained at six in an expressway tunnel from which 247 vehicles were removed as it was drained.



A man pushes a scooter through floodwaters in Xinxiang in central China's Henan Province, Monday, July 26, 2021.

nor of Henan province, expressed deep condolences to the victims and sympathies to the families on behalf of the Henan Communist Party committee.

The worst came after Zhengzhou was hit by 20 centimeters (8 inches) of rain in one hour starting at 4 p.m. on July 20, overwhelming the already drenched city. Children were trapped in schools, and stranded people staved in their workplaces overnight.

The rains headed north in the following days, hitting the Henan cities of Hebi, Anyang and Xinxiang. Seven people died and three are missing

rains dropped more than 25 centimeters (10 inches) of water in a 19-hour period. Henan is an inland county about 620 kilometers (380 miles) southwest of Beijing.

Authorities said that about 250,000 hectares (625,000 acres) of crops were destroyed and have estimated losses at more than 90 billion yuan (\$14 billion). About 1.5 million people were evacuated because of the rains and flooding.

The central government has set up an investigation team to evaluate the disaster response, summarize the lessons from it and hold accountable anyone guilty of dereliction of duty,

World

Turkey battles wildfires for 6th day; 10,000-plus are evacuated

BOZALAN, Turkey (AP)— Selcuk Sanli set his two cows loose, put his family's most treasured belongings in a car and fled his home as a wildfire approached his village near Turkey's beach resort of Bodrum, one of thousands fleeing flames that have coated the skies with a thick yellow haze.

For the sixth straight day, Turkish firefighters battled Monday to control the blazes that are tearing through forests near Turkey's beach destinations. Fed by strong winds and scorching temperatures, the fires that began Wednesday have left eight people dead. Residents and tourists have fled vacation resorts in flotillas of small boats or convovs of cars and trucks. Many villagers have lost their homes and farm animals and have had trouble breathing amid the heavy smoke.

Overall, some 10,000 people have been evacuated in Mugla province alone, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said Monday.

Sanli returned to check on his house Monday in Bozalan only to find that the fire



People run away from the fire-devastated Sirtkoy village, near Manavgat, Antalya, Turkey, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021.

had flared.

"Property is an important part of life but life itself comes first," he said as he prepared to leave once again.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said on Twitter that crews were still tackling nine fires in the coastal provinces of Antalya and Mugla that are popular tourist areas. Other active fires were in the provinces of Isparta, Denizli, Izmir and Adana.

Another fire in Tunceli, in southeast Turkey, was contained on Monday, the minister said earlier. In all, 137

fires that broke out in over 30 provinces since Wednesday have been extinguished.

"We are going through days when the heat is above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), where the winds are strong and humidity is extremely low," Pakdemirli said. "We are struggling under such difficult conditions."

In Bozalan, Esra Sanli sobbed as she pointed at a fire raging near the village.

"There's no plane, there's no helicopter, there's no roads. How is this going to be extinguished? How?" she said.

Wang Kai, the goverin Xinxiang, where record Chinese media said.

PH leader keeps pact allowing US war exercises MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippines will keep hav-

ing large-scale combat exercises with the United States after President Rodrigo Duterte retracted his decision to terminate a key defense pact in a move that may antagonize an increasingly belligerent China.

Duterte's decision was announced Friday by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in a joint news conference with visiting U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin in Manila. It was a step back from the Philippine leader's stunning vow early in his term to distance himself from Washington as he tried to rebuild fraved ties with China over years of territorial rifts in the South China Sea.

"The president decided to recall or retract the termination letter for the VFA," Lorenzana told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Austin, referring to the Visiting Forces Agreement. "There is no termination letter pending and we are back on track."

Austin thanked Duterte for the decision, which he said would further bolster the two nations' 70-year treaty alliance.

"Our countries face a range of challenges, from the climate crises to the pandemic and, as we do, a strong, resilient US-Philippine alliance will remain vital to the security, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific," Austin said. "A fully restored VFA will help us achieve that goal together."

Terminating the pact would have been a major blow to America's oldest alliance in Asia, as Washington squares with Beijing on a range of issues, including trade, human rights and China's behavior in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

The U.S. military presence in the region is seen as a counterbalance to China, which has used force to assert claims to vast areas of the disputed South China Sea, including the construction of artificial islands equipped with airstrips and military installations. China has ignored and continues to defy a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated its historic basis.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam and three other governments have been locked in the territorial standoff for decades. The U.S. doesn't lay any claim to the busy waterway and has sailed Navy warships close to Chinese-claimed islands on so-called freedom of navigation operations in a challenge to Beijing.

Beijing has warned Washington to stay away from what it describes as a purely Asian dispute.

In a speech in Singapore on Tuesday, Austin said that Beijing's claim to the South China Sea "has no basis in international law" and "treads on the sovereignty of states in the region." He said the U.S. supports the region's coastal states in upholding their rights under international law, and is committed to its defense treaty obligations with Japan and the Philippines.

Duterte notified the U.S. government in February last year that the Philippines intended to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows large numbers of American forces to join combat training with Philippine troops and sets legal terms for their temporary stay.

WORLD BRIEFS

Poland grants visa to Belarus Olympian who fears for safety

TOKYO (AP)—Poland granted a visa Monday to a Belarusian Olympic sprinter who said she feared for her safety and that her team's officials tried to force her to fly home, where the autocratic government was accused of diverting a flight to arrest a dissident journalist. An activist group that is helping athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya told The Associated Press that it bought her a plane ticket to Warsaw for the coming days. The current standoff apparently began after Tsimanouskaya criticized how officials were managing her team—setting off a massive backlash in state-run media back home, where authorities relentlessly crack down on government critics. The runner said on her Instagram account that she was put in the 4x400 relay even though she has never raced in the event. The runner was then apparently hustled to the airport but refused to board a flight for Istanbul and instead approached police for help. In a filmed message distributed on social media, she also

asked the International Olympic Committee for assistance.

Election body targets Bolsonaro after he fails to show fraud

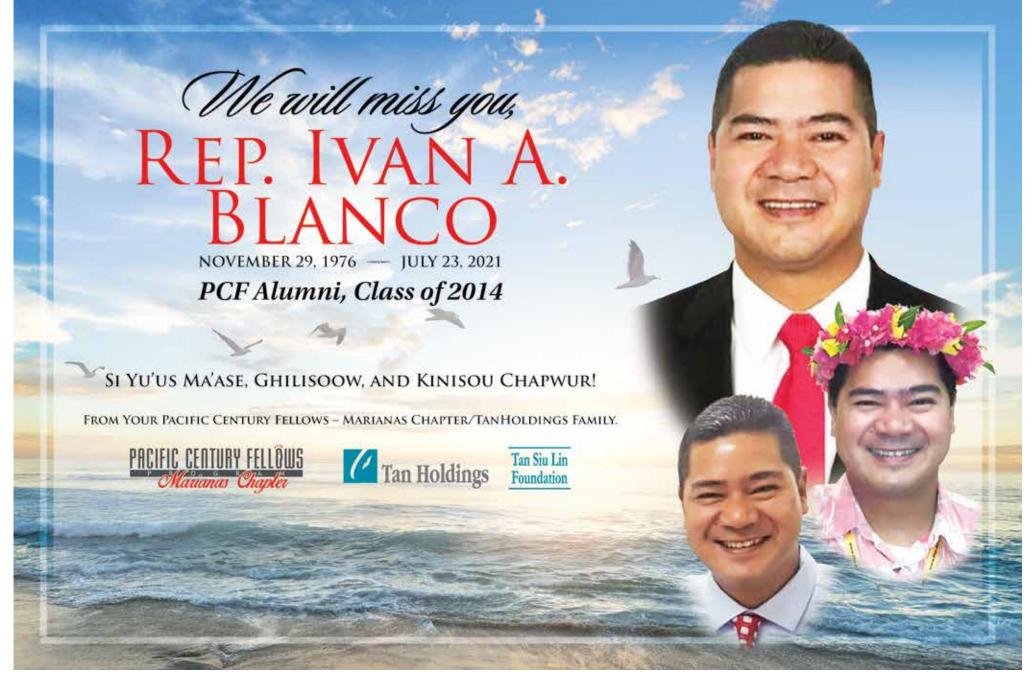
BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)— After years of attacking Brazil's voting system as susceptible to fraud, President Jair Bolsonaro ignored a Monday deadline from the nation's electoral court to present proof of his claims. And the election authority, in turn, adopted its strongest measures yet aimed at preventing Bolsonaro from chipping away at faith in the nation's upcoming election. According to two of Bolsonaro's ministers, his administration considered turning over a compilation of videos and documents, most of which the far-right president already exhibited publicly on July 29 and the court that oversees and administers elections has debunked. His administration's order for the Federal Police to find evidence of election fraud from the past 25 years didn't identify any such examples, said the ministers, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity due to concern of retaliation from the president. One of the ministers and the electoral court's press office confirmed that no evidence was sent.

Germany to offer **COVID-19** shots for all kids over 12

BERLIN (AP)—Germany will start offering coronavirus vaccinations for all children and teenagers aged 12 and older, top health officials said Monday. German Health Minister Jens Spahn said after a meeting with the 16 German state health ministers that "we keep our promise: everybody who wants can get vaccinated in the summer—we have enough vaccines for all age groups." "Therefore, children and teenagers ... can decide to get vaccinated after a medical consultation and thus protect themselves and others," he added. The government's push to get Germany's youth vaccinated comes two months after the European Medicines Agency recommended that the coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech be expanded to children 12 to 15. Last week, the EU drug regulator also cleared the vaccine made by Moderna for the same age group.

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Good Housekeeping

Accommodating outdoor electrical needs this summer

By PAUL F. P. POGUE ANGIE'S LIST

summer approaches, homeowners might be giving thought to outdoor kitchens or barbecue islands and other outdoor entertaining options. But these amenities sometimes require power, and you don't want to be running an extension cord to the backyard. What can you do to accommodate outdoor electrical needs for the summer?

Electricians say adding a new outdoor outlet is a relatively simple task. In most cases, they can piggyback off an existing indoor outlet and simply run another line off the same circuit.

Outdoor power outlets should always contain groundfault circuit interrupters (GFCI), which automatically cut off power in the event of an energy spike _ an important safety feature for any outlet that can be exposed to water. In addition, outdoor electrical outlets should be equipped with a rubber-sealed cover that can be closed when the outlet is not in use

"You want it to be both GF-CI-protected and weather resistant," says Brent Yauchler, owner of The Electrican in Mount Horeb, Wisc. He says if you have existing outdoor outlets that are more than 10

years old, you should take a if you're installing more than A/C units tend to draw quite look and make sure the rubber gasket still gives a good seal when closed.

Wesley Sedain, co-owner of Alley Electric in Fremont, Calif., says he charges between \$350 and \$400 to install an outdoor outlet, with the price rising somewhat if the existing outlet is an older one without a proper grounding wire, or if no outlet exists where the homeowner wants to install an outdoor one. "In those cases, we need to run a new dedicated circuit," he says.

Yauchler charges about \$150 to install an outdoor outlet, but the price goes down

one outlet, since the price includes a minimum labor fee.

Sedain says he installs summer outdoor outlets for barbecue islands and outdoor entertainment centers, but he most frequently installs outdoor outlets in the fall, in preparation for holiday lighting setups.

Other summer electrical issues

In addition to outdoor needs, other specific electrical problems develop during summer. Sedain says he often talks to homeowners who run into trouble with portable air conditioners. Portable a bit of power, so if you run one in the living room on the same circuit as another electronic device, it runs a high risk of tripping the circuit breaker _ particularly since living rooms and bedrooms aren't equipped with circuits capable of handling as much power as kitchens and utility rooms.

Sedain says the solution for a portable air conditioner is to keep it on one outlet without any other device, and if that doesn't work, you'll need to run a dedicated circuit that can handle more power, which will cost about \$300. "However, that dedicated circuit will

be able to accommodate other high-powered devices, such as running a portable heater in winter," he says.

Yauchler also advises homeowners to consider wholehouse surge protection in summertime, if they don't already have it. This protects against lightning and major electrical spikes, and gives much more protection than surge-protection power strips. He charges about \$250 to install one.

Paul F. P. Pogue is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from toprated providers.

How to pick the perfect sofa

Bv CATHY HOBBS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Long or short, chaise or sectional-what are the best options when it comes to a sofa?

One general rule of thumb is to pick your larger pieces first

such as your sofa before making smaller selections such as chairs and accents. A sofa is really the foundation for the room and can make or break a room when it comes to floor plan and layout.

When selecting a sofa for your space, here are some general rules of thumb.

D0'S

- 1. Choose your sofa once you have a chance to understand how you wish a space to function.
- 2. Choose a neutral-colored sofa if you are looking for a pieces that are timeless and can be used in different parts of the home and move with

you from home to home.

- 3. Consider a sectional, especially for corner spaces.
- 4. Use longer sofas along long walls to help fill a space.
- 5. Look for style, feel, function and comfort.

DON'TS

1. Don't purchase a sofa without measuring the space where the sofa will go in advance. Be sure to allocate room on either side of where the sofa will sit for circulation and flow.

- 2. Don't overlook hospitality-grade fabrics. Many designers solely choose hospitality-grade fabrics because of durability.
- 3. Don't forget to consider using lower-profile sections of a sofa to form a single unit

such as pairing two chaises, a left and a right side together.

- 4. Don't dismiss the beauty of leather and faux leather. Once considered outdated, these materials are still considered to be modern and on trend.
- 5. Don't purchase sofas in fabrics or colors that are considered trendy or won't last the test of time.



KITCHEN MAGIC

Chinese Five-Spice Grilled Chicken

Lots of flavor from just a few ingredients makes this a cinch for outdoor or indoor grilling.

1/4 cup dry sherry tablespoon Asian

sesame oil 1 teaspoon Chinese fivespice powder 1/4 teaspoon ground red

pepper (cayenne) 1 cut-up (8 pieces) chicken (about 3 1/2 pounds), skin removed from all but wings if you like

1/3 cup hoisin sauce

1 tablespoon soy sauce 1 teaspoon sesame seeds

1. In large bowl, stir sherry, sesame oil, five-spice powder and ground red pepper.

2. Add chicken to spice mixture and toss until evenly coated. Cover bowl and let stand 15 minutes at room temperature, turning chicken occasionally.

- 3. Prepare charcoal fire or preheat gas grill for covered direct grilling over medium heat.
- 4. Place chicken on hot grill rack. Cover grill and cook chicken 20 to 25 minutes or until juices run clear when thickest part of chicken is pierced with tip of knife, turning pieces over once and

removing pieces to platter as they are done.

5. In small bowl, mix hoisin sauce and soy sauce. Brush hoisin-sauce mixture all over chicken and return to grill. Cook 4 to 5 minutes longer or until glazed, turning once. Place chicken on same platter; sprinkle with sesame seeds. Makes 4 servings.

* Each serving: About 350 calories, 15g total fat (4g saturated), 121mg cholesterol, 595mg sodium, 10g carb., 0g fiber, 41g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our Web site at www.goodhousekeeping.com/ food-recipes/. ((c) 2021 Hearst Communications, Inc.)

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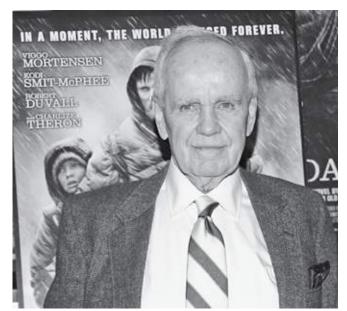
Life & Style

A road not taken: verified Cormac McCarthy account is fake

NEW YORK (AP)—Sorry, Cormac McCarthy fans. That blue-checked Twitter account for the famous, and famously media-shy author is fake.

"The account referenced was verified by mistake and that has since been reversed," a Twitter spokesperson told The Associated Press on Monday. "The account will also be required to adhere to Twitter's parody, newsfeed, commentary, and fan account policy."

The McCarthy account, @ CormacMcCrthy, had more than 48,000 followers as of midday Monday, among them Stephen King. It was established in September 2018, but was only recently given a blue check for verification. Another McCar-



Author Cormac McCarthy attends the premiere of "The Road" in New York on Nov. 16, 2009.

thy parody account from 2012 managed to fool Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, who tweeted at the time "We have the best authors in the world right here."

McCarthy, 88, rarely speaks to the press and has no known presence on social media. His novels include "All the Pretty Horses," "No Country for Old Men" and the Pulitzer Prizewinning "The Road." Some of the tweets on the current parody account make light of his unfamiliarity with technology.

"My publicist is on my case about my infrequent use of this infernal website," reads a tweet from last week. "He says engagement is down and so are metrics and something something who cares."

Griffin says she is undergoing surgery for lung cancer Kathy Griffin has revealed Well-wishers included that she is undergoing surgery. Jane Lynch, who wrote on

Kathy Griffin has revealed that she is undergoing surgery for lung cancer and her doctors are optimistic she "should be up and running around as usual in a month or less."

The comedian took to Instagram and Twitter Monday to say her cancer was caught early and confined to her left lung. The surgery will result in half her left lung being removed.

"It's been a helluva four years, trying to get back to work, making you guys laugh and entertaining you, but I'm gonna be just fine," she wrote. "Please stay up to date on your medical check ups."

Jane Lynch, who wrote on Twitter: "I'm beaming out to you all my love and vibes for good health," and Ashley Nicole Black, who wrote: "Praying for you! So many folks got your back!"

Griffin has had a tumultuous few years, including facing backlash in 2017 for taking part in a photoshoot that showed her holding up a fake bloody head resembling president Donald Trump. Her sister, Joyce Griffin, died of cancer in September 2017 and her mother, Maggie Griffin, died in March 2020 after battling dementia. (AP)

Amazon's 'Lord of the Rings'-inspired series to bow in 2022

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Start the countdown. An Amazon series inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" novels will premiere in September 2022.

The date was announced Monday as filming in New Zealand concluded for the as-yet untitled series, which Amazon said will relate the "fabled Second Age of Middle-earth's history."

The story is set thousands of years before the events of Tolkien's famed fantasy-adventure works and will follow new and familiar characters confronting the "long-feared re-emergence of evil to Middle-earth," ground that has yet to be covered on screen, the streaming service said

The series will debut in more than 200 countries and territories with a large ensemble cast that includes Cynthia AddaiRobinson, Morfydd Clark, Ismael Cruz Córdova, Sophia Nomvete and Llovd Owen.

New Zealand also was the home for taping of director Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" and prequel "The Hobbit" film trilogies. The series will debut Sept. 2, 2022.

Hong Kong pop singer, activist arrested on corruption charge

HONG KONG (AP)—A prominent Hong Kong singer and pro-democracy activist was arrested by the city's anticorruption watchdog Monday over accusations that he broke the law by singing at a political rally three years ago.

The arrest of Anthony Wong in the latest official move against those who had been pushing for greater democracy in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption said Wong performed two songs at the 2018 rally and urged attendees to vote for prodemocracy candidate Au Nokhin in a legislative by-election.

The watchdog also charged Au, who won the election, in part for publicizing the rally on social media and saying that Wong would be performing.

The watchdog said in a statement that providing others with

ment that providing others with refreshments and entertainment at an election event is "a corrupt conduct and a serious offence" and is against the elections ordinance.

Local media reported that Wong was released on bail. Au, meanwhile, has been in jail since March. Au was one of the 47 pro-democracy activists arrested for alleged subversion over an unofficial primary election they held last year.

The arrests come as authorities crack down on dissent in Hong Kong following 2019 anti-government protests sparked by concerns that the former British colony was losing the freedoms it was promised when it was handed over to Chinese control in 1997.

DaBaby offers 2nd apology after recent homophobic comments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper DaBaby offered another apology Monday while facing heavy backlash after he made crude and homophobic remarks at a recent Miamiarea music festival.

The Grammy-nominated performer said he was misinformed for his comments about HIV/AIDS in the post, which came a day after the rapper was cut from Lollapalooza's lineup in Chicago.

On Monday, New York City's Governors Ball and Day N Vegas in Las Vegas each announced the rapper had been dropped from their lineups.

Da Baby, whose real name is Jonathan Kirk, apologized to the LGBTQ+ community for his "hurtful and triggering" comments.

"Social media moves so fast that people want to demolish you before you even have the opportunity to grow, educate and learn from your mistakes," he wrote. "As a man who has had to make his own way from very difficult circumstances, having people I know publicly working against me—knowing that what I needed was education on these topics and guidance—has been challenging."

It's the second time DaBaby has apologized following his remarks at Miami's Rolling Loud Festival.

While on stage, the rapper used crude language and asked attendees who weren't gay men or people not affected by HIV or AIDS to raise their cellphone flashlights. He then incorrectly said the disease would "make you die in two or three weeks."

DaBaby's remarks caused

an immediate firestorm for the rapper, whose song "Rockstar" was one of the biggest hits last year. He was nominated for a Grammy for record of the year.

In recent days, several artists including Madonna, Quest-love and Elton John have denounced his remarks. Dua Lipa, who collaborated with DaBaby on the popular remix of her song "Levitating," said she was "surprised and horrified" by his comments.

DaBaby's representatives didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

Wife not interested in raising husband's love child

EAR ABBY: My husband of three years informed me that he'd had a brief affair and fathered a baby. We worked through it, and I decided to stay in the marriage. The mother of the child is in a new relationship. I am 10 years older than my husband and have grown kids. I am not interested in raising any more. I have friends, hobbies, outdoor sports and activities that I enjoy in my free time, and I'm not giving them up. (My husband enjoys these activities, too.) He told me he plans to have visitation with the baby in our home every other week. I have no objection. In fact, I see it as a perfect opportunity to go on some out-of-towners with my girlfriends. (We plan to yuk it up and enjoy some spa services.)

Abby, my husband hasn't a clue what to do. He has never even changed a diaper. I told him he will have to learn quickly or adjust his visitation plans because I am not helping him with his baby. I worked hard while I raised my kids and made all the sacrifices necessary. We have close relationships as adults. We live nearby, and they sometimes accompany me on my adventures.

When they have kids of their own, I plan to be an involved grandparent, but I would never expect my husband to give up his weekends to wipe their noses. (He would refuse, by the way. I know this because he has said so.) His stance on stepparenting

is different now because it involves a baby. I'm wondering if I should stay in the marriage.

TOOK CARE OF MY OWN

DEAR TOOK CARE: That's a good question. It's one you might discuss with an attorney to determine what the result will be financially if you exit the marriage. Do nothing in haste. However, once you have done that, if you are unwilling to disrupt your plans and help your husband with a responsibility that should be solely his, tell him you don't plan to spend weekends babysitting the result of his careless, adulterous affair.

DEAR ABBY: My family will be expecting me to attend the funeral of a relative who, as few of them know, was an abusive monster. I want to support the people I love, especially the abuser's niece, who is very close to me. However, I don't want to be a hypocrite. I can't imagine sitting through the service, listening to speeches about what a "wonderful" man he was and accepting condolences. My absence will undoubtedly generate comments and questions. I have spent many years dealing with the after-effects of his abuse. How should I handle this?

SURVIVOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www. DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR SURVIVOR: A funeral service may be a way to honor the deceased, but it is also intended to comfort and support the grieving relatives. A way to manage this would be to sit in the back of the room, quietly get up to "visit the bathroom" for most of the eulogizing and return as they are wheeling the "dearly departed" out so you can support the grieving niece by showing her you were there.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes







By Bill Waterson



Garfield®







Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis



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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955| 99c per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cole Sprouse, 29; Dylan Sprouse, 29; Meghan Markle, 40; Barack Obama, 60.

Happy Birthday: Don't fight change; adapt and go about your business. Fitting in will buy you the freedom to make a difference. Use intelligence to navigate your way to victory. Embrace adversity; deal with it and carry on until you are satisfied with the results you get. Life is about caring, sharing and finding common ground. Balance and equality are favored. Your numbers are 3, 9, 16, 25, 33, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Step up and do your part. You'll feel good if you take a stance and make a difference. Handle people with diplomacy, and you'll get your point across. A physical change to the way

or where you work will require ingenuity. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep an open mind. Pay closer attention to the way you look and present yourself to others. Don't put yourself in risky situations that can affect your physical well-being. Take your time; jumping into something without enough

information will backfire. OOO GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of your responsibilities at home and at work. Take the most intelligent route, and you'll stop someone from taking advantage of you. Learn through observation and the experience you gain dealing with others. Commit to a positive lifestyle change. OOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your emotions under control and your feelings to yourself. Put your energy into retrieving information that will help you get along better financially. Avoid extreme situations and pushy people. A creative outlet will ease stress, and self-improvement is encouraged.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Set your sights on the path that makes the most sense to you. It's OK to be different and to give others the same freedom. Your uniqueness will be what helps you get ahead. Personal change begins with you, not someone else.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your expectations will lead to disappointment if you don't read the fine print. Don't be fooled by someone's ability to color a situation. Do thorough research before you agree to make a move or adapt to someone's wishes. ••

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts, feelings and intentions, and you'll find out where you stand and how vou can bring about positive change. A challenge that stimulates you mentally will lead to a new set of rules and a fresh start.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep a low profile; listen, observe and take notes. Knowledge is crucial when it comes to getting ahead or outsmarting the competition. Avoid overspending on items you don't need or taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Keep your life simple. •••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look for the truth. Open your eyes, ask questions and avoid unstable situations

that can turn out to be costly. Walk away from temptation and people sending mixed messages

Sudoku is a number-placing

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with

several given numbers. The

object is to place the numbers

1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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regarding expectations and feelings. Stick to what you know, and avoid gossip. •••

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get motivated and play to win. Put your energy where it counts, and good results will fol-

low. Be prepared to make a move if it will get you closer to the lifestyle you want to enjoy. An open conversation will encourage romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do. Speak up and follow through with your plans. Don't let other people's choices deter you from following your heart. Your happiness is your responsibility. It's up to you to make your dreams come true. OOO

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put a little muscle behind the alterations you want to make at home. Move things around, and fix up a space that will encourage constructive projects. Show those you love how much you care. Positive

change will bring the results you want. ••••• Birthday Baby: You are creative, influential and sensitive. You are generous and impulsive.

②: Avoid conflicts: work behind the scenes. ○○: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. QQQ: Focus and you'll reach your goals. OCOO: Aim high; start new projects. •••• Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Yesterday's Answer

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8/04

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WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PIAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — herizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the

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Treasuries 23 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Durant scores 29, US reaches semis, tops Spain, 95-81



pan (AP)—Back and forth they went, the reigning TOKYO 2020 Olympic champions from the U.S.

on one side, the reigning Basketball World Cup champions from Spain on the other.

The difference: The Americans had Kevin Durant.

He's never gone to the Olympics and not won gold and clearly, doesn't plan on that changing. Durant scored 29 points to keep his quest for a third Olympic title alive, and the Americans are headed to the medal round after ousting Spain 95-81 on Tuesday in a quarterfinal matchup at the Tokyo Games.

Jayson Tatum scored 13 and Jrue Holiday added 12 for the U.S., which will play either Australia or Argentina in the semifinals on Thursday. The Americans also gave themselves the chance of extending a streak like none other in Olympic basketball history—in all 18 of their previous Olympic men's basketball appearances, they've gone home with a medal.

Ricky Rubio was brilliant for Spain, scoring 38 points and



Sergio Rodriguez added 16.

It wasn't easy, and rarely is against Spain. This was the fifth time the teams had met in the Olympic quarterfinals or later since 2004; the U.S. is now 5-0 in those games, but the margin of victory in those

is a close-by-American-Olympic-standards: 9.2 points.

And this one was no different. Spain actually led by 10 in the second quarter, before the U.S. went on what became a 36-10 run over the next nine minutes to take control for good.

Spain had won three consecutive Olympic medals, taking silvers after losing to the U.S. in the gold-medal games in 2008 and 2012, followed by a bronze in 2016 after falling to the U.S. in the semifinals. And this may be the last time

that the Spanish roster has some of its longtime mainstays; Pau Gasol is 41, other top players like Marc Gasol and Rudy Fernandez are much closer to the end than the beginning, and this might have been Spain's best chance to beat the U.S. at the Olympics.

Spain got down seven early, then simply did whatever it wanted against the U.S. for a 10-minute stretch of the first half. It was a 29-12 run by the time it was over, a burst that turned a 17-10 early deficit into a 39-29 lead with 3:25 left until halftime.

Spain shot 13 for 22 during that stretch, the U.S. just 5 for 22—missing 12 of its last 13 shots in te run. But just when it looked like the Americans were in big trouble, it was their turn to rally.

A 14-4 U.S. run to close the half made it a 43-43 game at intermission, the burst capped by seven consecutive points over the final 70 seconds. And with that, it was a 20-minute game to decide who would play for medals and who would be going home earlier than planned.

The Americans didn't trail again.

They opened the second half on a 15-4 run—making it a 22-4 run going back to late in the second quarter—and went on to lead by as many as 16 before taking a 69-63 edge into the fourth.

US women lose in soccer, win in volleyball, basketball

TOKYO (AP)—The quest for gold medals is on track for the U.S. women's basketball and volleyball teams after finishing at the top of their groups in pool play.

The U.S. women's soccer team can't say the same.

Jessie Fleming scored on a penalty kick in the 74th minute and Canada earned a 1-0 semifinal victory over the United States in the Olympic women's soccer competition on Monday.

Canada goes on to face Sweden in the gold medal match, while the U.S. will play Australia for the bronze. Sweden beat Australia 1-0 in the other semifinal.

It is the second straight Olympics that the United States has been knocked out of contention for the gold medal match.

"I think this is my first loss star Megan Rapinoe said. "It sucks not to be able to compete for a gold medal, which is what we wanted. Not a great performance, either. That's the most frustrating thing."

The Americans were bounced from the 2016 Games by Sweden in the quarterfinals. The U.S. team goes on to play in the bronze medal match in Kashima on Thursday.

Canada had not won against the United States since 2001.

In basketball, A'ja Wilson scored 22 points and Breanna

Stewart added 17 to help the U.S. beat France 93-82 in their final pool play match.

The win was the 52nd in a row for the U.S. going back to the bronze medal game of the 1992 Olympics. The U.S. went undefeated in group play and advanced to the quarterfinals. The Americans (3-0) haven't lost a game in group play since women's basketball was added to the Olympics in 1976.

"It wasn't a must win, but we always want to win," Stewart said. "To have that momentum going into the quarterfinals, this is where we start to peak."

While the U.S. women's basketball team has dominated at the Olympics, the women's volleyball team is seeking its first gold medal ever.

The Americans are off to a good start after beating ever to Canada," American Italy in five sets Monday to win their pool despite losing a second starter to a rolled ankle. Jordyn Poulter joined Jordan Thompson on the sidelines, but the U.S. still improved to 4-1.

> "They really stayed together," coach Karch Kiraly said. "I look back and our substitute box is getting very lonely back there. There's only three or four players there. So it's getting to be a bit of an adventure. But our team played with great heart and played

BILES ON THE BEAM

Simone Biles is returning to competition in Tokyo.

The 2016 Olympic champion will compete in the balance beam finals on Tuesday, a little over a week after stepping away from the meet to focus on her mental health.

The 24-year-old Biles won bronze on beam in Rio de Janeiro five years ago.

She removed herself from the team final on July 27 after a shaky performance on vault during the first rotation. She watched from the sidelines as her three American teammates completed the meet without her; the U.S. took silver behind the team known as the Russian Olympic Com-

Biles later said she was dealing with issues surrounding air awareness, referred to as "the twisties" in her sport. Biles qualified for all five individual event finals but took herself out of four of them.

Elsewhere in gymnastics, American gymnast Jade Carey won the gold medal on floor exercise, Shin Jeahwan of South Korea won the men's vault, and Liu Yang of China won the men's still rings.

MILESTONE MOMENT

Transgender weightlifter Laurel Hubbard made her mark by competing in the women's weightlifting but couldn't complete a lift.

Hubbard is not the only transgender athlete competing at the Tokyo Games, but she has been the focus of attention as a medal contender in weightlifting.

The New Zealander overbalanced on her opening weight of 120 kilograms, taking the bar behind her shoulders.

Hubbard's second effort of 125 kilograms was ruled invalid on a majority decision by the referees. The third attempt was almost a repeat of the first, ruling Hubbard out of medal contention in the women's over-87-kilogram division.

AMAZING RECOVERY

Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands started her bid to win three medals at the Tokyo Games by earning gold in the 5,000 meters.

Hassan pulled away with about 250 meters to go and cruised to the win in a time of 14 minutes, 36.79 seconds. She beat Hellen Obiri of Kenya by nearly two seconds. Gudaf Tsegay of Ethiopia was third.

Earlier in the day, the 28-year-old Hassan had a scare when she fell on the final lap in the opening round of the 1,500. She picked herself up, caught the pack and won her heat to advance. She's also entered in the 10,000 meters.

Hassan won the 1,500 and

10,000 at the 2019 world championships.

GO FOR GOLD

Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico has won gold in the women's 100-meter hurdles, powering ahead of American Keni Harrison.

Camacho-Quinn finished in 12.37 seconds for a .15 second win over the worldrecord holder, Harrison. Jamaica's Megan Tapper finished third.

"This was what I wanted for this year. I wanted to be a gold medalist," Camacho-Quinn said.

Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece has edged Cuba's Juan Miguel Echevarria for the men's long jump gold medal with a winning jump on the last attempt.

Discus thrower Valarie Allman won the first track and field gold medal for the U.S. Allman's winning throw went 68.98 meters (226 feet, 3 inches) to hold off Kristin Pudenz of Germany in a competition that was delayed by rain.

WALK IT OFF

Yuki Yanagita tied it with an RBI grounder off Scott Mc-Gough in the ninth inning, Takuya Kai hit a walkoff single against Edwin Jackson in the 10th and Japan beat the United States 7-6 to reach the Olympic semifinals.

Japan (3-0) will play South

Korea (3-1) on Wednesday night for a spot in the final.

The U.S. (2-1) fell into the loser's bracket of the doubleelimination second round. To reach this weekend's final, it must beat the winner of Tuesday's elimination game between the Dominican Republic (1-2) and Israel (1-3), and then the Japan-South Korea loser.

MOVING ON

April Ross and Alix Klineman have advanced to the quarterfinals of the Olympic beach volleyball tournament.

The American "A-Team" beat Cuba 21-17, 21-15. The win came a day after two other U.S. teams were ousted in the first knockout round.

Next up for the Americans is one defending gold medalist Laura Ludwig of Germany and her partner Maggie Kozuch.

Jake Gibb and substitute teammate Tri Bourne lost to Germany in the beach volleyball round of 16, ending their shotgun partnership after just two weeks.

Bourne was a last-minute swap after Gibb's original partner, Taylor Crabb, tested positive for COVID-19 when he arrived in Japan. The pair had just three practices before their first match, but they made it out of pool play with a 2-1 record.

Julius Thole and Clemens Wickler beat Bourne and Gibb 17-21, 21-15, 15-11 to advance to the quarterfinals

O's slug 4 HRs, top Yanks 7-1 in game slowed by loose cat



NEW YORK (AP)—In a game delayed

for several minutes while a bevy of groundskeepers tried to corral a scaredy cat in the outfield, the Baltimore Orioles hit four solo homers off New York newcomer Andrew Heaney and beat the Yankees 7-1 Monday night.

The Orioles held a six-run lead in the eighth when the tabby emerged from the third base side as Yankees star Aaron Judge batted against Paul Fry.

The cat got on the warning track and dashed back and forth. The feline climbed up on the low padding along the wall and tried to scale the bullpen fence, but kept falling back down. Only after 3 1/2 minutes did the cat leave the field, darting into an open gate near the seating area along the third base line.

Cedric Mullins and Austin Hays hit back-to-back homers in the third off Heaney (6-8).

Rvan Mountcastle and Ramón Urías also went deep to spoil the debut of Heaney, who gave up four runs on six hits in six innings with the homers coming in a span of six batters in the third and fourth.

Jorge López (3-12) took a no-hitter into the sixth and allowed one run and one hit in six innings.

Joey Gallo started in left field and ended López's nohit bid with a clean double to open the sixth.

Mariners 8, Rays 2

In St. Petersburgh, Fla., Jake Fraley had a two-run single during a five-run third, Chris Flexen went 6 2/3 solid innings, and Seattle beat AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Fraley, who was activated before the game after being on the COVID-19 injured list since July 18, also made a diving catch in left field on Brandon Lowe's liner in the third. He went 2 for 4 with a walk and stole a base.

Flexen (10-5) gave up two runs and seven hits, helping the Mariners move within three games of Oakland, which



A member of the Yankee Stadium grounds crew tries to catch a cat who entered the field in the eighth inning of a baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Baltimore Orioles, Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, in New York.

currently holds the second AL wild card. The right-hander struck out six and walked two.

Seattle's Ty France had three hits with three RBIs, and came within a triple of hitting for the cycle.

Randy Arozarena homered as Tampa Bay saw its divisional lead over Boston drop to one game.

Michael Wacha (2-3) took the loss. He allowed six runs and eight hits in four innings.

Brewers 6, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Eduardo Escobar hit a three-run homer and an RBI triple to back up Eric Lauer's five shutout innings in Milwaukee's victory over Pittsburgh.

Escobar's two-out triple off Kyle Keller in the sixth extended the Brewers' lead to 2-0. He followed that up by sending a 421-foot drive to right against Nick Mears in the seventh. He also walked twice to reach base on each of his four plate appearances.

Brad Boxberger earned his fourth save in six opportunities.

Bryse Wilson (2-4) worked five innings and allowed just one run in his Pirates debut, but the Brewers feasted on Pittsburgh's bullpen after his departure.

Lauer (4-4) allowed just three hits, struck out three and walked nobody. He also hit a batter.

Giants 11, Diamondbacks 8, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Buster Posey doubled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and San Francisco beat Arizona.

The Giants extended their NL West lead to 3 1/2 games over the idle Los Angeles Dodgers.

Posey's double scored Brandon Crawford, who was the runner at second to start the 10th. Posey then scored on Steven Duggar's single against Miguel Aguilar (0-

1) and Donovan Solano's squeeze bunt brought in Austin Slater, who had been intentionally walked.

Jarlin Garcia (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the

Alex Dickerson hit a grand slam to highlight San Francisco's five-run fifth. Mike Yastrzemski and Wilmer Flores also homered for San Francisco (67-39), which has the majors' best record and leads all teams with 161 homers.

The Diamondbacks got two-run homers from pinch hitter Josh Reddick and Asdrubal Cabrera.

Phillies 7, Nationals 5

In Washington, J.T. Realmuto hit a go-ahead, two-run single to highlight a five-run rally in the ninth inning that carried Philadelphia over Washington.

Trailing 3-2, the Phillies started the winning rally when Ronald Torreyes and Travis Jankowski opened the ninth with singles off Gabe Klobosits (0-1). Jean Segura doubled off Wander Suero to tie the game and Realmuto singled to put the Phillies ahead.

Carter Kieboom hit a tworun homer in the bottom of the ninth before Ian Kennedy recorded his 17th save and first with the Phillies.

Andrew Stevenson hit a pinch-hit homer in the sixth for the Nationals.

Rangers 4, Angels 1

In Arlington, Texas, Dane Dunning won consecutive starts for the first time this season for Texas, and the Rangers took the lead for good with a double steal in a win over Los Angeles.

Brock Holt scored the tiebreaking run with a headfirst slide into home on the backend of a double steal in the fifth inning, the second time this season the Rangers stole home. Holt later added a sacrifice fly.

Dunning (5-7) struck out three, walked two and allowed one run on three hits. Spencer Patton worked the ninth for his first big league save in three chances as the last-place Rangers won their third game in a row.

Angels right-hander Chris Rodriguez (2-1) struck out seven and walked two while allowing four runs (three earned) and four hits in his first big league start.

Marlins 6, Mets 3

In Miami, Lewis Brinson connected for a first-inning grand slam to back Jesús Luzardo in his Miami debut, and the lastplace Marlins beat NL Eastleading New York.

Miguel Rojas had two hits and scored twice for the Marlins, who ended a four-game losing streak.

Luzardo (3-4) allowed three runs on four hits in five innings. The left-hander struck out five, walked three and hit a batter.

Pete Alonso hit his 24th homer, a solo blast in the third, for the Mets.

Tylor Megill (1-1) gave up five runs on six hits in five innings with four strikeouts.

Indians 5, Blue Jays 2, **10 innings**

In Toronto, Jose Ramirez homered to cap a three-run 10th inning and Cleveland ended Toronto's four-game winning streak.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 34th home run for the Blue Jays, who lost for the first time in four games since returning north of the border.

Brad Hand (5-6) endured a rocky 10th, opening the inning with a wild pitch that allowed automatic runner Myles Straw to advance to third. Amed Rosario lined Hand's next pitch through the drawn-in infield for an RBI single.

Four pitches later, Ramirez homered off the left field foul screen, his 23rd.

Bryan Shaw (4-5) worked one inning for the win and Emmanuel Clase finished for his 14th save in 18 opportu-

Paul gets more chances to bring Suns, and himself, a title



PHOENIX (AP)— Chris Paul proved to be an ageless wonder in his first season with the Phoenix Suns, leading the franchise to the

NBA Finals for the first time in nearly three decades.

Now he'll get another chance to push the Suns and himself — to a long-coveted championship.

Phoenix is bringing back the veteran point guard on a

four-year deal that could be worth up to \$120 million, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press on Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because free agent contracts can't be announced until Friday.

The new contract could keep Paul with with the Suns until he's 40 years old.

The Suns won the first two games of this year's Finals but then dropped four straight to the Milwaukee Bucks. After the Finals loss, Paul spoke about wanting to return. "Everybody in that locker room knows we had enough, but it wasn't enough," Paul said at the time. "So, we got to figure it out. I think for me I just look at myself and figure out how can I get better, what I could have done more and make sure I come back next season ready to do it again."

Paul's backup will return as well. Point guard Cameron

Payne agreed to a \$19 million, three-year contract, a person with knowledge of the deal told The AP on Monday.

Payne, who turns 27 next week, was a revelation for the Suns over the past 1 1/2 years. He was signed as a free agent just before the NBA returned in 2020 to the Florida bubble and contributed to eight straight wins.

Over the past season, he played in 60 games and averaged 8.4 points and 3.6 assists. He was even more taking care of his body and at valuable during the playoffs, filling in admirably when Paul was limited by a shoulder injury against the Lakers. Payne later started two games against the Los Angeles Clippers when Paul was out on the COVID-19 list; the Suns won both.

The Paul deal wasn't a big surprise, but it comes with considerable risk. Few NBA players, let alone point guards, have played at an All-Star level into their late 30s.

But Paul is well known for

age 36 he made his 11th All-Star team while averaging 16.4 points and 8.9 assists.

Paul's decision to stay with the Suns means the team's nucleus-which includes Devin Booker, Deandre Ayton, Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson and Jae Crowder-should stay intact. Paul has said repeatedly he's comfortable in Phoenix, teaming with fellow All-Star Booker in the backcourt and playing for coach Monty Williams, a close friend.

Shana, Alonzo best in 100m open water swim

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Alonzo Acosta and Shana Barman won the 100m race Saipan

Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last July 24 in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Acosta beat July 10 winner Yutaro Kitagawa with a time of 2:18.18 with the latter coming in at 2:25.02. Third place went to SSC's Carl Licop at 2:50.96.

Kitagawa, of Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan, said he will aim for first place in the next open water swim on Sept. 25.

"I felt proud for getting second place, but my time got slower and got second. I hope I could get first place the next time."

Barman, Tsunami Saipan's 8-year-old wunderkind, topped the girls 100m after emerging from the surf in 2:16.89. Prashika Pandey came in second at 2:44.20 and third went to Corrie Zhai at 3:06.92.

"I swam 100m race again. It would be harder to swim than last time because of choking,

but it was easier when I swam back to the beach. I think I became tough through this ocean swim race," he said.

SSC coach Richard Sikkel admitted that the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series two Saturdays ago almost got cancelled because of rough sea conditions.

"We had some challenging conditions and it's good for these swimmers to experience this, but it was challenging to keep the course in place. It was good we pulled it off. A total of 110 signed up but don't know how many actually swam."

Sikkel said the next open water swim will be held on Sept. 25 because there are swimmers who are still offisland. "Hopefully they'll be back by that time.'

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura thanked Sikkel, Northern Mariana Islands Swim Federation president Colin Thompson, vice president John Hirsh, and board member Val Welch for holding the event.

"Without the efforts of these people, the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series wouldn't have been held. I really respect these gentlemen. Competition



From left, Yutaro Kitagawa, Shana Barman, Alonzo Acosta, and Prashika Pandey pose for a group photo after the 100m event of Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last July 24 in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

MARK RABAGO

in the pool had been non-existent since the Marpi pool's closure in 2018. Add to this the situation brought about by the COVID-19. Despite these, they were still able to stage two events last month.'

He also thanked 500 Sails' Emma and Peter Perez and Korean Masters Swimmers' Chong Nam Lee for helping out in the twin open water swims.

"Especially on July 24 when weather was not good. It never stopped raining and strong wind blowing early in the morning. If without their support and the facility, the situation for us would've gotten worse. I hope that we can maintain a better relationship as a CNMI swimming community in the future," added Kimura.

The Tsunami Saipan coach said he and his swimmers are already looking forward to the third and final installment of the ocean water swim.

"We will try our best to conduct the final race of Triple Crown Open water Swim Series on Sept. 25. I wish more of our young swimmers participate than the last two races."

NMISF's Thompson acknowledged everyone who made the swim last July 24 possible despite the inclement weather. "Early this morning there were some squalls that came through and we delayed and there were some questions about whether we can go forward. Some of the buoys were moving but really everybody worked together. Thanks to all the volunteers and the lifeguards. It went off very well and it was a successful event."

Aside from swimmers from SSC, Tsunami Saipan, and Korean Masters Swimmers other clubs who took part in the event were swimmers from Agape Christian School and Dolphin Swim Club.

The Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series was sanctioned by NMISF and is the second of three events, which main purpose is to choose four swimmers (top two men and top two women) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

SHIRLEY'S

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A doubles, respectively, while Angie Ito and Miles Guerrero, Fieldad and Alvarez, and Oh and Ojima notched straight set wins. Irish Pagarao and William Liang put Taga on the win column after outlasting Veloria and Zapanta, 21-16, 19-21, 21-16.

For its final game, Shirley's had some anxious moments when it dropped its first two matches against the Golden Racquets. The eventual champion, however, fought back and prevailed in three of the last four games to gain enough points to top the fiveteam field. Galvez and Gallardo, Sodheim and Zapanta,



and Oh and Fieldad delivered the needed wins for Shirley's. Gallardo and Galvez topped Jordan Pangilinan and Alex Nguyen in the men's A doubles, 21-19, 21-12; Sodheim and Zapanta beat Anneth Ta and Patricia Surima in the women's BC doubles, 21-14, 19-21, 21-13; and Fieldad and Oh swept Jojo Savaellano and Eric Pena, 21-11, 21-14.

Shirley's Badminton Club's Angie Ito receives a serve during her and Miles Guerrero's women's doubles B game against Taga Badminton Club's Shirley Kim and Windy Fernandez in the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VELASCO

From Page 24

PAIRE

From Page 24

the first to tear the tape in the MTB division with an unofficial time of 53.50. Renren Gaviola and Mike Aparte came in second and third, respectively.

"I didn't expect to win because I didn't had a lot of prac-

He got his first goal in the

10th minute and the last two

in back-to-back fashion after

lighting up the board in the

26th and 30th minute. Jazz-

roy and Jayten Villagomez

and Justidy Mizutani added

one goal apiece for Paire after

tice before the race. Maybe I won just because some of the faster MTB riders were not in condition," said the 46-yearold Cristobal.

women, Vernice Estepa came in first followed by Kathryn Ruszala and Rosemarie Chinatown, while the MTV divi-

sion had Ayano Braxton and Jayanne Felipe coming first and second, respectively. All Top 3 winners in the road bike and MTB races received med-In the road bike division for als from Barbo, who celebrated his birthday by hosting the

> "Instead of spending a lot of money to celebrate my birth

day I thought what better way to commemorate my special day than hold a fundraising bike race and help people in need," he said.

Barbo said a total of \$970 was raised in the Race for a Cause and it will be donated to three individuals in dire need of help. He said one is a 6-year-

old slated to go to Hawaii for scoliosis surgery (parents are CWs and are not qualified for allowance or plane ticket to escort their child). The other beneficiary is a CW who lost his job three months ago and the third is a man with status who just wants to build a small shack for him to live in.

scoring in the third, 28th, and 21st minute, respectively.

Anton Megino delivered the lone goal for Matansa when he found the back of the net in the 35th minute.

In the second semis game, Bennet Haro was on first for Shirley's, recording all of his team's three goals. He started his string of goals in the 13th

minute, got his second in the 28th, and the last in the 39th.

Shirley's will challenge Paire for the division championship this Saturday at 4:20pm. Paire will be slightly favored in the title duel this weekend, as it has yet to drop a game in the short season to finish on top of the team standings with a 5-0-0 mark after

the round-robin elimination. Shirley's was ranked second going into the playoffs with its 3-1-1 win-draw-loss mark. Paire edged Shirley's in their previous meeting, 2-1.

Before the Paire-Shirley's champion match. Matansa will face MP United for the battle for third place at 3:10pm.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings Football Club placed fifth in the division after beating Kanoa Football Club last Saturday, 5-2.

Kay Anne Costales led Tan-Holdings in the victory after logging three goals, while Julio Monserat and John Lloyd Lucero chipped in one apiece. Kanoa got its pair of goals from Jayson and Arstin Tagabuel.

Uganda Egypt Bermuda Latvia

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

MEDAL COUNT

United States

Australia

France South Korea Netherlands

New Zealand

Switzerland

Hungary Taiwan

Denmark

Georgia

Austria

Turkey

Norway

Slovenia

Sweden

Jamaica Ecuador

Hong Kong Poland

South Africa

Mongolia

Portugal Kazakhstan

Mexico

Philippines

Belarus

Uzbekistan

Puerto Rico

Bulgaria Jordan Macedonia

Argentina

Dominican Republic 0

Cuba Spain Czech Republic **G S B TOTAL**22 27 17 66
30 19 16 65

10 15

MLB STANDINGS

W L Pct GB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay	64	43	.598	_	
Boston	63	44	.589	1	
New York	56	49	.533	7	
Toronto	54	49	.524	8	
Baltimore	38	67	.362	25	
Central Division					
Chicago	62	44	.585	_	
Cleveland	52	51	.505	81/2	
Detroit	51	57	.472	12	
Kansas Citv	45	59	433	16	

44 62 .415 18

West Division 64 42 .604 _ 60 47 .561 4¹/₂ Los Angeles 39 67 .368 25

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

INCW IOIK	55	50	.024	_
Philadelphia	53	53	.500	21/2
Atlanta	52	54	.491	31/2
Washington	49	57	.462	61/2
Miami	45	61	.425	101/
Central Division				
Milwaukee	64	43	.598	
Cincinnati	56	50	.528	71/2
St. Louis	53	52	.505	10
Chicago	51	56	.477	13
Pittsburgh	40	66	.377	231/
West Division				
San Francisco	67	39	.632	
Los Angeles	64	43	.598	31/2
San Diego	61	47	.565	7

Colorado

46 60 .434 21 33 74 .30834½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Durant scores 29, US reaches semis, tops Spain, 95-81

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Shana, Alonzo best in 100m open water swim

PAGE 23



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's reigns supreme anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

t's back-to-back for Shirley's Badminton Club as the group topped the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shirley's, which ruled Northern Marianas Badminton Association's season-opening event—the TanHoldings Team Tournament—lorded it over anew in the five-squad competition after beating three teams. Shirley's defeated

United Badminton Club, 14-14, Community and Badminton Club.

13-5, last Friday, and also outclassed Taga Badminton Club last Saturday, 14-4. Adding its 9-9 results against Golden Racquets, Shirley's Badminton Club collected 50 points to prevail over the former (39), Taga (39), UBC (27), and CBC (25). Teams received 3 points for a match won in two games and 2 points for a threegame victory.

Sung Chul Kim and Sefric

Veloria handed Shirley's its first victory in last weekend's event when they swept Paulo Quidato and Kevin Barros in the men's C doubles, 21-10, 21-15. Shirley's won the four other pairings with Alvin Alvarez and Patrick Fielded

thwarting Thomas Lim and Perry Li in the men's B doubles, 21-13, 21-19;

Hiroko Tajima and Kazuko Sodheim winning over April Rio and Elna Curate in the women's BC doubles, 17-21, 21-15, 21-13; Lance Gallardo and Hajin Oh beating John Oh and Joseph Torres in the men's AB doubles, 14-21, 21-16, 21-20; and Andreau Galvez and Miles Guerrero easing past Ezekiel Macario and Loida Ito, 21-10, 21-14. Monique Mascarinas and Sophia



Shirley's Badminton Club's Lance Gallardo goes for a baseline return during his and Andreau Galvez's men's doubles A game against Taga Badminton Club's Janelle Pangilinan and Daniel Macario in the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Quinto gave UBC its lone victory in the pairing when they slipped past Gigi Zapanta and Keiko Ojima in the women's C doubles, 16-21, 21-14, 21-8.

Shirley's also won five of the six matches in their duel against CBC last Friday with Galvez drawing first blood following a 21-9, 17-21, 21-9 triumph over Ferdie Arago in the men's A singles. Oh and Gallardo also took three sets to edge Jeffrey De Silva and Nate Guerrero in the men's AB doubles, 17-21. 21-13, 21-19, while the pairings of Tajima and Sodheim, Veloria and Ian Lubao, and Fieldad and Alvarez swept their respective foes. Ella Serrano and Lucelle Lampera prevented Shirley's from winning all seven matches as they prevailed against Zapanta and Miles Guerrero in the women's B doubles, 21-5, 21-13.

For its penultimate assignment, Shirley's had another easy win over Taga Badminton Club to boost its bid for back-to-back titles. The duos of Tajima and Sodheim and Gallardo and Galvez needed three games to pull of victories in the women's C doubles and men's

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 23

Velasco, Cristobal top Race for a Cause By MARK RABAGO Velasco crossed the finmark_rabago@saipantribune.com ish line in an unofficial time ASSOCIATE EDITOR of 50:08. He was followed



Arvin Velasco and Hernando Cristobal were the top finishers

in the road bike and MTB divisions of the Race for a Cause sponsored by veteran rider Willy Barbo held last Saturday in Marpi.

by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita and Mark Isip.

The course started at the former Mariana Resort & Spa before heading north to Banzai Cliff then south to La Fiesta Mall before turning



Hernando Cristobal poses after topping the MTB division of last Saturday's Race for a Cause in Marpi. PONCIANO COROTAN



Arvin Velasco is congratulated by runners-up Michiteru Mita and Mark Isip while organizer Willy Barbo looks on after topping the road bike division of last Saturday's Race for a Cause in Marpi.

around and headed back all the way to Bird Island Lookout before it went up to Suicide Cliff for the finish line.

The 28-year-old Velasco said his victory in the 27-kilometer Race for a Cause is his first-ever win in any bike race since he took up the sport two years ago.

"I'm very happy with my win especially because it's my first time getting first place. The race really started maybe after 10 kilometers of the flat route when we reached the portion we call 'Siko/Elbow.' After that I just went hard as I can," said the Commonwealth Health Center dialysis technician who is originally from Taytay, Philippines.

Cristobal, for his part, was See VELASCO on Page 23



A Paire Footbal Club player is chased by Matansa Football Club defenders during their playoff game in the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire vs Shirley's in co-ed U12 finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Paire Football Club and Shirley's

Football Club arranged their title showdown in the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 after easing past their respective semis foes last Saturday

at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire took the first finals seat following a 6-1 victory over Matansa Football Club, while Shirley's advanced the championship game after shutting down MP United Football Club, 3-0.

Rodney Junior Tomei towed Paire past Matansa after making a hat trick.

See PAIRE on Page 23